Hafa Adai!

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Fitial removes Mafnas from DPS

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial relieved embattled Ramon "Ray" C. Mafnas of his responsibility as Department of Public Safety commissioner on Thursday, but retained him as Department of Corrections commissioner.

» But retains him as DOC commissioner

Mafnas

The governor placed Mafnas on administrative leave on March 26 because of formal complaints against him, and ordered the Office of the Attorney General to investigate these complaints.

Fitial directed Mafnas to report for work as DOC commissioner effective April 30.

Fitial made the decision to relieve Mafnas as DPS commissioner days after receiving from OAG the results of its investigation on Mafnas.

The OAG cleared Mafnas of any law violation, but found him in violation of investigative and interpersonal standards of conduct.

The governor issued an April 26 memo to Mafnas, stating his decision to relieve him of his duty as DPS commissioner "effective immediately" but retaining him as DOC commissioner.

Mafnas has been holding two concurrent Cabinet-level positions—DPS commissioner and DOC commissioner.

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11 PROCLAMATIONS IN 1 DAY

Department of Corrections officers, followed by Hopwood Junior High School students, walk their way to the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill Thursday afternoon to witness Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos's record signing of 10 of 11 proclamations, including CNMI Correctional Officers and Employees Week from April 29 to May 5, Peace Officers' Memorial Day, Historic Preservation Week, Foster Care Month, and CNMI Tourism Month.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

See story on Page 4

DOC personnel to protest over Mafnas' reinstatement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Department of Corrections personnel are planning actions to express their strong protest over Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's directive reinstating the controversial on-leave Department of Public Safety and DOC Secretary Ramon C. Mafnas, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

A DOC official, who requested anonymity, said one of the plans is for the personnel to walk on Monday to the governor's office to explain their strong objection for Mafnas' reinstatement.

"The DOC personnel are very

See DOC on Page 4

$8.6B military buildup could include training ranges in CNMI

AP

In this Feb. 2, 2012 file photo released by U.S. Navy, U.S. Marines assigned to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit haul a 155 mm Howitzer onto the flight deck of the forward-deployed amphibious dock landing ship USS Germantown in Okinawa, Japan, when the ship pulled into Okinawa to embark the Marines in preparation of exercise Cobra Gold 2012.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The United States and Japan reached an agreement Thursday to relocate some 5,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam as part of an $8.6-billion military realignment that could include the development of training ranges in Guam and the CNMI.

» US, Japan agree to cost, relocation of 5,000 Marines to Guam

Japan will pay $3.1 billion of the $8.6 billion cost of expanding military facilities in the Marianas.

The U.S. State Department announced during a news briefing that the agreement creates new opportunities to build the relationship between the U.S. military and Japan's self-defense forces.

"As you may have heard, one of the elements of the agreement will be looking at the possibility of developing together training ranges in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and turning those facilities, should we develop them, into shared-use facilities. This really creates an opportunity for significant deepening in our operational relationship together, and we're quite pleased," a State Department official told a news briefing.

Press Secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the Fitial administration is upbeat about the impact from the re-

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Should the CNMI lease one of its Northern Islands to Japan, which plans to use it as dumping/recycling site for debris from the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE

MAHARLIKA

The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan bid farewell to the Filipino community on Tinian as it held its final mobile consular services at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and JC Café last April 21 and 22.

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NATION

Expanding the prostitution investigation, the Secret Service acknowledged Thursday it is checking whether its employees hired strippers and prostitutes in advance of President Barack Obama's visit last year to El Salvador.

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YOUNGSTYLE

This is what it's like to be Jabari Parker, the nation's top high school basketball player. One day he's presenting a project in his Spanish class, turns around and sees Alonzo Mourning.

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Local

Airline reinstates free delivery of vaccines to Pacific

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Health officials in the Pacific heaved a sigh a relief yesterday following United Airlines' decision to reinstate free shipment of flu vaccines to the region.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta relayed the good news to *Saipan Tribune* after confirming it from Michael Epp, an official of the Pacific Island Health Officers Association, or PIHOA.

United Airlines last week discontinued the service of free shipping them, a decision appealed by PIHOA members, which include the CNMI healthcare corporation.

"PIHOA members: Good news. United Airlines has reversed its decision and has agreed to ship excess Department of Defense influenza vaccines to the USAPI for free," stated Epp in his email correspondence to members.

USAPI stands for U.S. Associated Pacific Islands which include public health department from Guam, healthcare corporation in CNMI, health departments from Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and American Samoa.

According to Epp, the airline's decision was relayed by the Joint Task Force Homeland Defense Interagency Coordinator, Michelle Garcia, to PIHOA.

Garcia, in her letter to PIHOA, indicated that they have continued to work with the United Airlines regarding the company's early decision to stop the free shipment of vaccines and which it reconsidered and revived the efforts.

"We have continued to work with United Airlines on this effort and as of today, we have a verbal agreement of support for gratis delivery of flu vaccine to the Pacific," Garcia's letter indicated, adding that she spoke with the airline's director of sales in Micronesia and who re-confirmed their support to the U.S. Pacific Islands Vaccine Program and their commitment to the Pacific island community.

Garcia thanked the PIHOA members in helping to push for the continuation of the program. She indicated that delivery of free vaccines for the last two locations this year—Guam and Kosrae—will continue with the airline and expected to be delivered within next two weeks. The CNMI received this year's flu vaccine request of 330 doses last April 15.

The U.S. Pacific Islands Vaccine Program began in 2007 when the U.S. Department of Defense realized it was destroying excess vaccine while the Pacific islands had a shortage.

DOD began the program with a pilot in the CNMI which resulted in close 8000 doses being sent. It later expanded to include six locations sending 26,500 doses valued at nearly $260,000.

The Joint Task Force Homeland Defense along with Tripler Army Medical Center and the U.S. Army Medical Material Agency were the ones that coordinated delivery of excess flu vaccine to the region.

Saipan Tribune learned that every year Hawaiian Airlines and Continental Micronesia has partnered with DOD to fly the donated flu vaccine at no cost.

Hawaiian flew the vaccine to American Samoa while for Guam, CNMI, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and Marshall Islands these all dependent on United Airlines.

PIHOA members expressed their gratitude to the airline for reinstating the gratis delivery of needed vaccine in the region.

Stimulus check forged, cashed

A houseworker was surprised after learning that her 2010 stimulus check in the amount of $339.78 was already cashed without her knowledge since last November.

Pacencia T. Bendicio, 44, said Thursday that she recently filed a theft and forgery complaint with the Department of Public Safety.

Bendicio said she filed the complaint after the Department of Finance showed her a copy of her check this month that indicated that someone had already cashed it.

The houseworker noticed that the signature in the check was far different from her signature. She also found out that the P.O. Box belonged to another person.

Bendicio had been following up her check monthly last year after she was concerned that all her friends had already received their checks.

Last September, the houseworker learned from Finance that the check was already mailed to her since July 2011.

Bendicio urged authorities to investigate the matter as there could be possibly more stimulus checks being forged and cashed. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

DUE TO LACK OF MPLT TRUSTEES FROM SAIPAN

Arctic Circle loan proposal on hold

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Marianas Public Land Trust board of directors decided to hold off making any decision on the loan proposal of Arctic Circle Air due to lack of representatives from Saipan.

MPLT board chair Pedro Deleon Guerrero said until new trustees representing Saipan are appointed and confirmed, no action will be rendered on the company's request for financial assistance.

There are only three trustees currently serving the MPLT board after the Senate rejected the reappointments of Gregoria Omar and Alvaro Santos.

Onboard are trustees Peter Q. Cruz from Tinian, Melchor Mendiola from Rota, and Deleon Guerrero from Saipan. Due to conflict of interest, the former recused himself from participating in the Arctic Circle Air proposal because his brother is among the company's officials.

The chairman disclosed that both trustees from Rota and Tinian have agreed to defer taking any action on the issue during a meeting they held in Tinian last month.

Deleon Guerrero disclosed Thursday that to date, the board has also yet to receive some important documentations requested from the company that will aid the trustees in their review of the loan proposal.

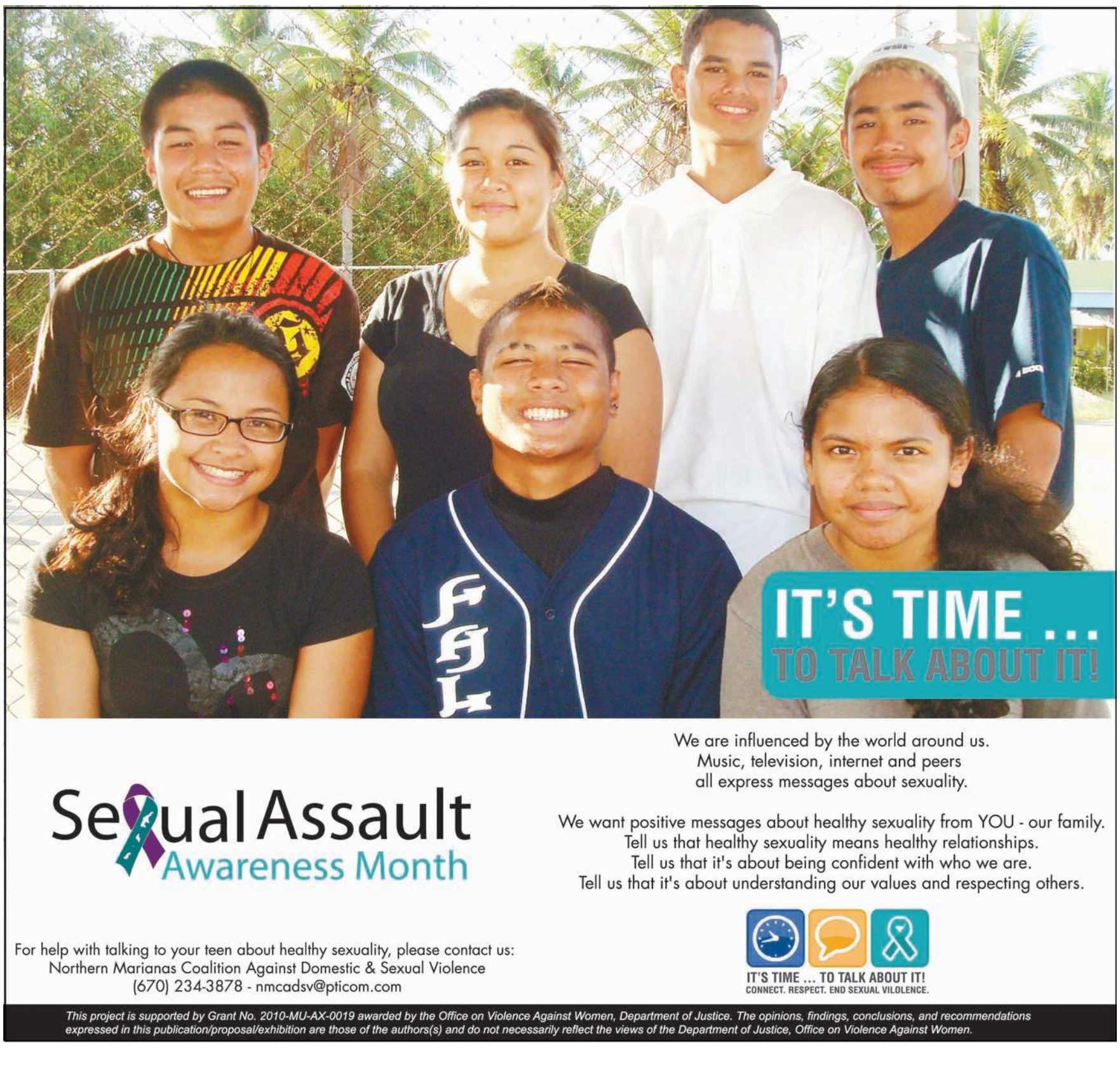
Deleon Guerrero said that according to the trustees, Arctic Circle Air has not been producing what has been required of them in a timely manner.

"And even up to this time, they still have not received other important documents," he said during a break at Thursday's meeting.

According to the chairman, MPLT earlier approved $500,000 loan to the company which was rejected by Arctic Circle Air. It later approached the board of trustees requesting MPLT to invest $235,000 to the business.

Deleon Guerrero said the "investment request" was turned down by the board and which converted the $235,000 as a loan proposal from the company. This issue is now at the board's table which review was put on hold.

Arctic Circle Air, which will be doing business as Marianas Harvest, will package the produce from local farmers so that farmers will just have to provide the goods that will be packed, labeled and sold in Guam. The cargo airline aims to revive the CNMI's agriculture industry, which was supposed to start last month.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This project is supported by Grant No. 2010-MU-AX-0019 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/proposal/exhibition are those of the authors(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Manglona places under advisement motions in Davis' lawsuit

Ex-businessman gets 30-day jail term for gun shooting, harassment cases

A former businessman has entered a guilty plea in two criminal cases for firing an unregistered gun in the presence of his girlfriend and subsequently harassing two witnesses in the shooting incident.

Juan B. Roberto pleaded guilty on Wednesday to unlawful possession of a firearm, disturbing the peace, and criminal use of a firearm. In the second case, he pleaded guilty to criminal contempt.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo accepted the 52-year-old Roberto's guilty plea and the plea agreement.

In a written order issued yesterday, Govendo sentenced the defendant to a total of three years, all suspended, except for 30 days.

The defendant was given credit for 32 days he already served in prison. It means that he will no longer serve more jail time.

Govendo placed Roberto on supervised probation for three years and required him to write a letter of apology to the victims and submit to a psychological evaluation.

Govendo ordered the defendant to submit to an alcohol and drug assessment treatment, if recommended, and perform 180 hours of community work service.

The judge required Roberto to surrender and forfeit all his firearms, ammunition and other weapons to the Department of Public Safety immediately.

Govendo also ordered the defendant to surrender all evidence seized at the time of his arrest, including multiple marijuana plants.

Roberto was directed to pay a total of $400 in court costs and probation fees.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Roberto with unlawful possession of a firearm, unlawful possession of ammunition, illegal possession of controlled substance, assault with a dangerous weapon, criminal use of a firearm, and three counts of disturbing the peace.

In the second case, the OAG charged Roberto with two counts of disturbing the peace, and one count of criminal contempt.

For entering a guilty plea, the OAG recommended the dismissal of the remaining charges. The court granted the motion.

According to the plea agreement, on Jan. 22, 2012 on Saipan, Roberto unlawfully discharged a firearm, while engaged in a domestic dispute with his girlfriend.

The firearm, a .22 caliber rifle, was not property registered to Roberto. As a result, he disturbed the peace of the girlfriend and two other persons.

On Jan. 26, 2012 on Saipan, the defendant violated the terms and conditions of the court's bail order issued on Jan. 24, 2012 by driving his truck recklessly, shouting profanities, and disturbing the peace of two witnesses in the shooting case. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has placed under advisement the motions that seek a ruling to a lawsuit filed by John H. Davis Jr., a U.S. citizen who seeks to stop the Commonwealth Election Commission from denying U.S. citizens who are not of Northern Marianas descent the right to vote of any issue regarding Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution or on any other issues.

After hearing from counsel during Thursday afternoon's hearing, Judge Manglona took the matter under advisement and stated that an order would be forthcoming.

Davis filed a motion for summary judgment, while the Office of the Attorney General, as counsel for the government and co-defendants, filed a cross-motion for summary judgment.

Manglona

Attorney Jeanne Rayphand argued as counsel for Davis. Assistant attorney general Charles Brasington, who appeared with co-counsel assistant attorney general Gilbert Birnbrich, argued for the government.

In the motion, Rayphand asserted that Davis is entitled to declaratory judgment and injunctive relief enjoining CEC and co-defendants from denying him and other U.S. citizens who are not of NMI descent the right to vote and to prevent the deprivation of his right to vote.

Rayphand asked the court to rule that Article 18 § 5(c) of the CNMI Constitution violates 14th and 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution and is therefore invalid, null, and void.

Article 18 Section 5(c) states that "in the case of a proposed amendment to Article 12, the word 'voters' shall be limited to eligible voters under Article 7 who are also persons of Northern Marianas descent as described in Article 12 Section 4, and the term 'votes cast' as used in subsection 5(b) shall mean the votes cast by such voters."

Rayphand also requested the court to declare that Public Law 17-40 violates the 14th and 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution and is therefore invalid, null, and void.

Article 12 limits landownership in the CNMI only to those of NMI descent.

Last Friday, April 20, Manglona dismissed CEC from the lawsuit. The judge ruled that considering that CEC is not a proper defendant on any of Davis' claims in his second amended complaint, CEC is dismissed from the lawsuit.

The remaining defendants in the case are CEC chair Frances M. Sablan, CEC executive director Robert A. Guerrero, and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Inos breaks own record by signing 11 proclamations in 1 day

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos broke his own record by signing 11 proclamations on Thursday, packing the governor's conference room on Capital Hill with police officers, corrections officers, other law enforcement officers, tourism officials and supporters, stakeholders, and other members of the community.

Of the 11 proclamations, one was signed at the Office on Aging in China Town in the morning. That was to proclaim May Older Americans Month.

The rest were signed in the afternoon in the governor's conference, starting with the CNMI Tourism Month proclamation witnessed by Marianas Visitors Authority board members, employees, tourism club members from Hopwood Junior High School, and other stakeholders.

Inos reiterated that "Tourism is Everybody's Business," which remains the CNMI tourism's motto.

In fiscal year 2011, the tourism industry contributed $250 million in direct impact and $660 million in indirect impact to the CNMI economy. Japan remains the major market, comprising about half of total arrivals.

In FY 2012, the government is projecting a 42-percent increase in arrivals based on the addition of new air service to Japan, Korea, and China, as well as continued growth of the Russian market.

MVA officials announced the kick off of the annual Taste of the Marianas every Saturday in May, among other activities to celebrate Tourism Month.

"As people throughout the world become more aware of the unique recreational, cultural and lifestyle appeal of the Northern Marianas, tourism can play an even greater role in improving the lives of our people and our visitors' lives as well. Our message will continue to be that this is a highly resilient sector that will return to strong growth when the overall economic crisis abates and one that can contribute more than others," Inos said.

Inos

Law enforcement, public safety proclamations

The front area of the Office of the Governor's building was teeming with men in uniform before and after Inos signed six proclamations related to law enforcement and public safety.

The first one was CNMI Correctional Officers and Employees Week from April 29 to May 5.

"So who's guarding the inmates?" Inos asked in jest as he prepared to sign the proclamation in front of dozens of corrections officers and related personnel.

Inos also signed a proclamation declaring both CNMI Police Week from May 13 to 19 and Peace Officers' Memorial Day on May 15.

"Since the first recorded death in 1791, almost 20,000 law enforcement officers in the United States have made the ultimate sacrifice and has been killed in the line of duty, including members of the CNMI's Department of Public Safety, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and other federal law enforcement agencies," states the proclamation, read by a police officer.

An Emergency Medical Services officer read the yet-to-be signed proclamation declaring Emergency Medical Services Week.

Another EMS officer read a proclamation declaring May 23 Emergency Medical Services for Children Day.

Next came the Click It or Ticket Enforcement Mobilization Month from May 23 to June 5, promoting the use of seatbelts.

"Increasing regular use of seat belts is the single most effective way to protect motorists, reduce fatalities, injuries and save lives," the proclamation reads.

A 2011 survey in the CNMI revealed a 12.78-percent increase or a total of 93.66 usage rate by travelers on highways.

The previous year recorded an 80.88-percent usage rate by travelers on CNMI highways.

Inos also signed a proclamation declaring May 13 to 19 CNMI Safe Boating Week.

In 2011, CNMI boating safety officers responded to 10 boating accidents, one sunken vessel, eight capsized vessels, and one vessel aground.

Boating safety officers also responded to two drowning cases, two near-drowning, one stranded surfer, two stranded swimmers, five overdue fishermen, and one missing swimmer.

'Discover America's Hidden Gems'

Inos proclaimed May 6 to 15 Historic Preservation Week, celebrating "the role of history in our lives and the contributions made by dedicated individuals in helping to preserve the tangible aspects of the heritage that has helped shape us as a people."

The proclamation was read in English, Chamorro, and Carolinian.

The theme for CNMI Historic Preservation Week is "Discover America's Hidden Gems."

In line with this, the Historic Preservation Office will provide special activities, including historic tours of little-known historic sites, reach out to a growing audience of neighbors, tourists, students and preservationists by promoting historic places in the community, and encourage newcomers to learn more about local preservation programs.

CNMI historian Don Farrell joined Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao and other DCCA officials and employees at the proclamation signing.

Inos also designated May 10 Child Care Provider Appreciation Day, recognizing early childhood professionals to raise awareness of the importance of quality child care and early learning opportunities.

The last proclamation signed was the one designation May 2012 Foster Care Month, with the theme, "Change a Lifetime."

In April last year, Inos signed 10 proclamations in a single day in three different locations.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial designated Inos to sign all proclamations declared by the Office of the Governor effective Jan. 27, 2010.

Judiciary guests on *Your Humanities' Half-Hour Radio*

Acting Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Justice John A. Manglona were recently accompanied by former judge Timothy Bellas and "We the People" student coach Carmen Borja for the taping of an edition of the radio program *Your Humanities' Half Hour*, hosted by Catherine Perry for the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities.

The show will be heard on Power 99 at 2pm on Sunday, April 29. During the program the group discussed a variety of community outreach and education efforts involving the judiciary and its facilities, including the "We the People" competition, Law Day Poster and Essays Contests for elementary schools, and the judges in the Classroom program.

Judges in the Classroom is an ongoing educational effort which involves members of the judiciary and its staff along with CNMI Bar Association members who visit classrooms throughout the Commonwealth and speak about the court system, the making of laws and civic responsibility.

Law Week 2012 activities at the Guma Hustisia-Limwal Aweewe conclude this year on Thursday, May 3, with the Attorney Generals' Cup held in the CNMI Supreme Court courtroom, beginning at 8am.

In the final segment of the radio show's taping former Judge Timothy Bellas, joined by Northern Marianas Judiciary Historic Society executive director Jim Stowell, reflected on the numerous individual contributions that resulted in the publication of the *Northern Marianas Judiciary-a Historical Perspective* by the Judiciary Historical Society. The award winning and Library of Congress registered book includes numerous pictures and chronicles the evolution of the judicial system in the Northern Marianas from the Spanish times through the Trust Territories era and into to the present, when a fully functioning and independent judiciary exists. ***(PR)***

MILITARY

From Page 1

newed potential for relocation of Marines.

"Although the number of Marines is much lower than previously agreed upon, it is still 5,000 more Marines than there are in Guam today," he said.

Demapan said the Fitial administration is closely monitoring this development and have yet to receive official communication on the use of the ranges by both U.S. and Japan forces.

The release of the U.S.-Japan agreement comes a few days after Japanese military officials visited Tinian on a fact-finding mission related to the possibility of developing training areas on the island for joint use of U.S. and Japan forces.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said he hasn't seen the newly-released U.S.-Japan agreement or the reports about it, so he's deferring comment at this time.

But since Dela Cruz assumed his post, he has been pressing for promised military activities on the island to help buoy the economy.

Two-thirds of Tinian land is leased by the U.S. Department of Defense from the CNMI government.

Douglas Brennan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said the Chamber is "pleased the governments of the United States and Japan have reached a mutually beneficial accord on the relocation of United States Marines stationed at Futenma Air Base in Okinawa."

"The move should be an economic boon to the island of Guam which will, hopefully, result in an economic ripple effect throughout the CNMI," he said.

The U.S. and Japan's agreement on a long-stalled plan to move troops off the island of Okinawa is a key part of the Obama administration's strategy to intensify its focus on Asia, and disperse American troops around the region.

The new plan would move some 9,000 Marines off Okinawa, about 5,000 of them in Guam and move the rest to Australia or Hawaii. There are now about 18,000 Marines in Okinawa.

DOC

From Page 1

upset. In fact, we at DOC are the first victims of Mafnas," a DOC staff said. "We don't like the way he treated us here. We just remained quiet."

Another DOC staff, who asked not to be identified, stated that putting back Mafnas is not a good idea considering, among other things, about DOC's good "bonding relationship" with DPS.

Over 140 personnel at DPS signed a petition that seeks the removal of Mafnas as DPS commissioner.

According to the petition, "Mafnas' authoritarian leadership, confrontational approach, micro-management, and lack of faith and trust in the staff of the Department of Public Safety has brought a never ending fear of reprisal, humiliation, and degradation within our ranks and file."

Although DOC staff did not join the petition, many of them reportedly supported the action and in fact were ready to affix their signatures when Mafnas was put on administrative leave.

Asked what's their plan about the report that Mafnas will resume his post at DOC commissioner on Monday, the DOC staff replied: "We don't want him back!"

Another DOC officer said if Fitial cares for this Commonwealth, he should listen to the people's sentiments.

"Nobody likes Mafnas at DPS, much more at DOC. Nobody likes his dictatorial and bullying management style. As simple as that!" the officer said.

Other DOC personnel refused to comment.

FITIAL

From Page 1

"Issues related to your performance as Commissioner, Department of Public Safety, have arisen. In response, I placed you on administrative leave from both positions. Additionally, I directed that these matters be reviewed by the Office of the Attorney General," Fitial told Mafnas.

Fitial said the OAG investigation was completed and transmitted to him on April 20. He said upon receipt of the report, he has carefully considered its contents and findings.

"Effective immediately, you are relieved of your responsibility as Commissioner, Department of Public Safety," the governor told Mafnas.

Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos separately said earlier that they will be discussing the OAG report and from there, jointly make a decision on Mafnas.

"Effective Monday, April 30, 2012, you are directed to resume your duties as Commissioner, Department of Corrections," Fitial said in his one-page memo to Mafnas.

Press Secretary Angel Demapan said last night that DPS deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro "remains the acting commissioner for DPS until further notice."

"At this time, the governor has not selected anyone to be nominated for commissioner," Demapan added.

The governor's nomination of a DPS commissioner requires the advice and consent of the Senate.

Mafnas used to be Fitial's senior policy advisor before appointing him DOC and DPS commissioner.

Police officers and lawmakers are keeping mum on the issue as of yesterday.

OAG's three main areas of investigation were the complaints filed by two security guards and dive instructor; the allegations contained in a petition signed by DPS employees; and a letter from a police captain alleging that Mafnas interfered with a murder investigation.

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham, in a news briefing on Monday, said that while not as serious as a violation of law, a violation of investigative standards is a matter of significance warranting the governor's serious consideration.

The OAG determined that Mafnas violated DPS operating protocols, which suggest the need for the commissioner to have additional management oversight and possible training.

The OAG found Mafnas in violation of interpersonal standards of conduct, which suggests follow-up and possible training needs.

The OAG found Mafnas in violation of investigative standards pertaining to him not preparing a witness summary in connection with the investigation into the murder of Emerita Romero, and investigation at Suicide Cliff.

But the OAG concluded as unfounded seven other allegations against Mafnas, including allegedly threatening to arrest and shoot certain individuals.

Fiesta Resort F&B staff hold quarterly party

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Fiesta Resort & Spa employees under the Food and Beverage department spent time outside of work Tuesday night and let their hair down for their quarterly party held at Ocean's Bar at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

About 40 F&B staffers from various dining outlets took a break from serving alcoholic drinks to customers as they themselves became the customers, enjoying cocktail drinks, wines, and beers for a night of fun and entertainment.

"Our quarterly parties are aimed at motivating our staff by giving them an opportunity to enjoy and have fun with their co-workers outside of work," said F&B manager Das Krishnan, who noted that only half of the over 80 employees are able to make it to the party as some of them are still at work.

Krishnan said F&B staffers work different shifts, have different lifestyles or become busy with their own families that they don't get the chance to mingle with the rest of the team. The quarterly party, he said, seeks to gather the staff to relax and unwind without their spouses or significant other, children, and friends outside work.

Krishnan disclosed that the initiative actually started as a once-a-year party held right after the New Year celebration. However, they decided to hold it every quarter by designated committees and they've been doing it for a year now—and with great response.

"My motto is to work hard, play hard, and I want the staff to do the same," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "The quarterly party is also a way to give moral support to the employees, the backbone of the F&B and the company as a whole."

Krishnan, who has worked at Fiesta Resort & Spa for about four years, noted that they chose Oceans Bar as their party venue because of its convenient location which is only a walking distance away from the hotel and some of the employees' residences. This allows F&B employees to attend the party right after their shift without even taking their cars so they don't have to drive going home.

The F&B manager pointed out that while the staff's loyalty and dedication to the company has become evident after years of employment at Fiesta Resort & Spa, there is still a need to reinforce to them that great service comes first at one of the biggest hotels on island. To demonstrate this, Krishnan said employees need to be driven and inspired, and this is where the quarterly parties come into the picture.

Tuesday night's shindig also featured a singing contest, parlor games, and a raffle draw with exciting prizes donated by the hotel's suppliers, most notably Pacific Trading Co.

Asked for his message to the F&B department, Krishnan said, "I want them to work hard, party hard. Enjoy their jobs. Also, I want them to have a goal plan because when they do, they have focus in their life. When you have a plan, you always remember where you want to be and you work hard to achieve it."

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Food and beverage department employees of Fiesta Resort & Spa smile for the camera during their quarterly party held at Ocean's Bar in Garapan on Tuesday evening.

Motion to dismiss Fund's bankruptcy will also be heard at next hearing

The lawyers for two unnamed retirees or creditors last Thursday filed a notice of a hearing on their motion to dismiss the NMI Retirement Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

Attorneys Bruce Jorgensen and Stephen Woodruff, counsel for the unnamed retirees or creditors, said the hearing of their motion will be on May 31 at 1:30pm in the U.S. District Court for the NMI (Hawaii time) or June 1 at 9:30am Saipan time.

Jorgensen said U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Hawaii Chief Bankruptcy Judge Robert J. Faris will be conducting the hearing.

Last April 20, Faris set another hearing in the Fund's bankruptcy case for the same schedule.

Atty. Margery Bronster, another counsel for the unnamed retirees or creditors, informed the court last April 20 about their motion to dismiss the bankruptcy petition.

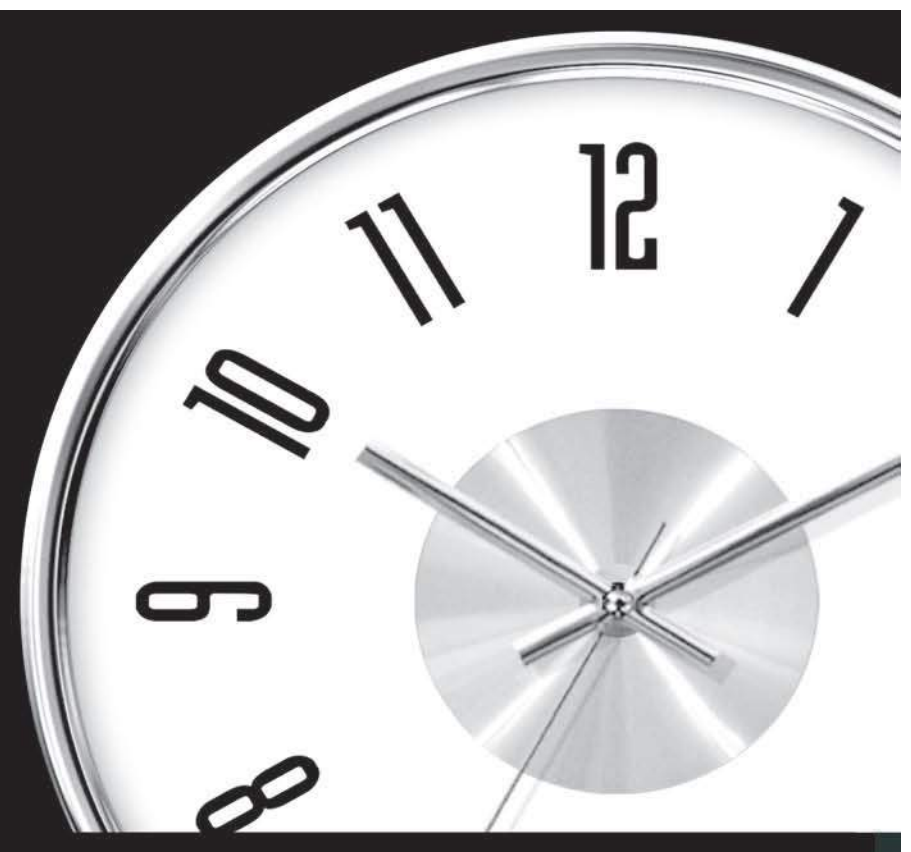
In their pleadings, Bronster said the Fund is a "governmental unit" and an agency of the Commonwealth" and, therefore is not a "person" eligible to file such a petition under the Bankruptcy Code.

Consequently, Bronster said, the Fund's Chapter 11 petition must be dismissed.

The Fund counsel told the court that the intent of filing the Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition is to restructure the Fund's obligation and not to shutdown. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

OPEN HOUSE!!
Do you want to exercise outside whatever is the weather?
Come to Squshi Club!
Saturday, April 28, 2012 at 4:00pm – 5:00pm

KOREAN SQUSHI CLUB
Contact Number: (670) 287-8888

THE SAFE JAMBOREE
SAFE, AWARE, FREE, EMPOWER
APRIL 28, 2012
The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and Family Violence Task Force invite you for a day of family fun at the second annual
SAFE (Safe, Aware, Free, Empower) Jamboree!
April 28, 2012
Capitol Hill Softball Field
9:30am to 9:00pm
Opening Ceremony
9:30am
First 200 registrants get a free t-shirt!
Softball Tournament
April 27, 2012 - 6:30pm - 9:00pm
April 28, 2012 - 10:00am - 9:00pm
April 29, 2012 - 10:00am to Championship Game!
Team Sufa
Team One Vision
Team One Young Vision
Team Natibu
Team Olomwahu
Team 79 Respect
Kagman High School
Team Pac-Chain
Team Adahi Hao
Team Warriors
Rock Against Sexual Violence Concert
10:00am - 9:00pm
Plus food vendors and exhibit booths all day long!
Special thanks to:
This project is supported by Grant No. 2010-MU-AX-0019 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/proposal/exhibition are those of the authors(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.
IT'S TIME TO TALK ABOUT IT!
Join the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence SAFE Jamboree!

IT'S TIME TO TALK ABOUT IT!
CONNECT. RESPECT. END SEXUAL VIOLENCE
Sexual Assault Awareness Month
Please contact 234-3878 or email safejamboree@gmail.com for more information.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

What we owe Afghanistan

Weary as Americans are of the war in Afghanistan, it has been obvious for some time that the United States would continue to play a role in that country after Afghan forces assume full control of security in 2014. So it isn't surprising that Washington and Kabul have reached a draft "strategic partnership" agreement under which the U.S. will continue providing military, economic and other aid to Afghanistan for another decade. In principle, a continuing relationship is perfectly defensible, but it needs to be circumscribed to prevent a re-escalation of U.S. military involvement.

The pact initialed by U.S. and Afghan representatives is still being refined in deliberations, and no text was released. A final version is expected to be signed at next month's NATO conference in Chicago. Reportedly, President Hamid Karzai expects the United States to provide $2 billion a year in military assistance, a figure dwarfed by the $105.5 billion the U.S. will spend in Afghanistan this fiscal year. The U.S. is expected to lobby its NATO partners to provide military aid as well. It is also expected to continue to provide economic aid and assist with what is pejoratively called "nation-building," including the reform ofAfghanistan's judicial system.

Despite recent crises in U.S.-Afghan relations, U.S. and NATO officials profess to be encouraged by increased self-reliance on the part of the Afghan military and police forces. The U.S. and the Karzai regime have successfully negotiated a transfer of control over prisoners and night raids. U.S. force levels will be drawn down by 23,000 between now and September.

U.S. officials perhaps are being too sanguine about the Afghans' ability to assume responsibility for security and reconstruction. Nevertheless, the U.S. combat role is coming to an end, as it should after a decade of war and the loss of nearly 2,000 American lives. So long as that process continues, there is nothing objectionable about continued—but limited—economic and military aid, including, if necessary, the presence in Afghanistan of a few thousand U.S. military trainers. Nor is a continued U.S. role incompatible with peace negotiations between the Karzai government and the Taliban.

Having upended Afghan society with its invasion a decade ago, the United States has a moral responsibility even at this late date to assist with its reconstruction and security—but not to the extent of fighting its wars. That must be clear when details of the strategic partnership agreement are nailed down.

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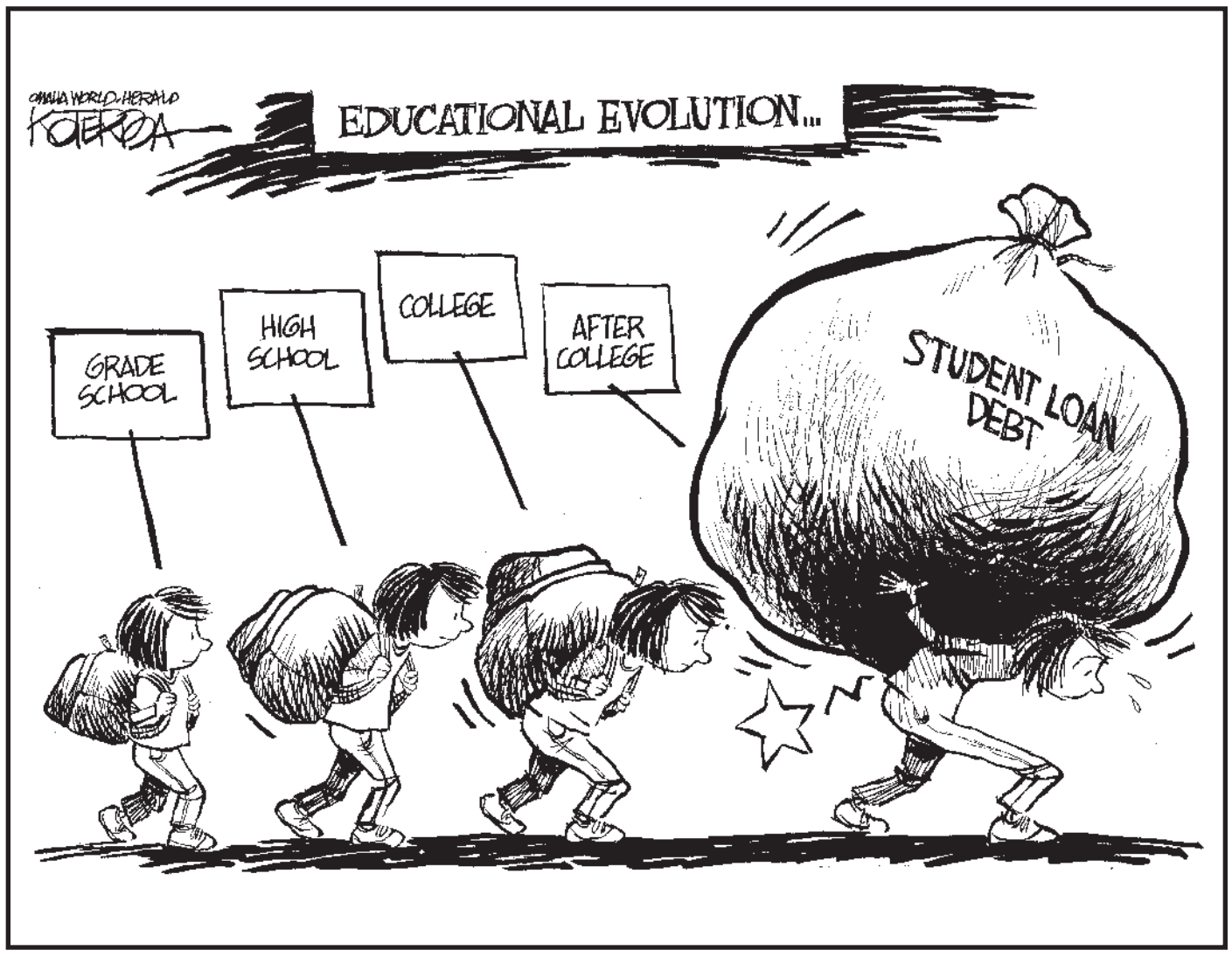
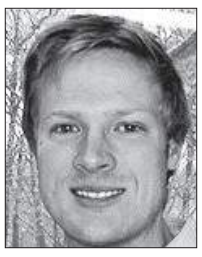


Victims complain of uneven justice in Uganda

By MOSES ODOKONYERO and SIMON JENNINGS
The Institute for War & Peace Reporting



Moses Odokonyero is head of the Northern Uganda Media Club in Gulu and Simon Jennings is the Africa editor for The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict.

GULU, Uganda—Many here say there's something fundamentally wrong with the government's decision to extend a program that grants amnesty to suspected war criminals while denying adequate compensation to their thousands of victims.

The Amnesty Act was originally designed to encourage members of the Lord's Resistance Army, which used child soldiers to wage a brutal 20-year war, to lay down their arms.

Approximately 10,000 people were killed during the LRA insurgency in northern Uganda, and 60,000 children were abducted and forced into servitude, often as child soldiers.

Since it came into force in 2000, more than 26,000 former combatants, mainly from the LRA, have benefited from the law, which enabled them to return to their communities without fear of prosecution.

On April 16, the act was extended for two more years.

While most agree the amnesty act has done much to bring an end to the uprising, many ask why those who saw their relatives killed during the years of fighting have received so little in government assistance.

"When it was renewed, other issues should have been included - issues like dealing with victims, because the issue of amnesty only favors the combatants," said Ketty Akol, who lost her husband to fighting in 2003.

So far, she said, politicians had "left out the issue of victims, those people who suffered." The question of the state providing reparations or compensation has not been addressed since the conflict ended in 2006, when the government signed a ceasefire agreement with the LRA.

That agreement, signed in the South Sudanese capital of Juba, stipulated that the Ugandan government would provide adequate compensation and reparations for victims of the conflict.

"There was an understanding in Juba that the LRA conflict would come to an end and [there would be] a process that would acknowledge the suffering of victims - a process that would result in comprehensive reparation of victims," Stephen Oola of the Refugee Law project, which monitors the post-conflict situation in the region, said. "In that sense, the victims got a raw deal." To date, the only cases in which the government has paid compensation is in out-of-court settlements following legal action by a number of victims' groups in northern Uganda.

Stephen Kagoda, permanent secretary at the Ugandan interior ministry, acknowledged that more needed to be done to assist the victims of conflict.

"The most serious thing that I am now hearing, which must be seriously taken into account if we decide to amend this law, is that there are victims. We must put in place measures and mechanisms to address the concerns that are being aired," Kagoda said.

"Whether it's the Amnesty Commission or whether it's a new statutory body (that should do this)—that is a matter yet to be discussed, but the bottom line is we definitely need a body to do this." "I think... we need to establish a statutory body that will oversee the question of peace, compensating victims, rehabilitation, reparation, resettlement and early warning conflict signals," said Bishop Baker Ochola, a member of the Acholi Religious Leaders' Peace Initiative.

Whatever arrangements are made, some commentators question whether the government has the political will to make such an institution effective. They note that although the amnesty commission was established by an act of parliament, it has not received the funding it needs to enable it to do its work.

Reagan Okumu, who chairs the Acholi Parliamentary Group, an association of members of parliament from the Acholi region of northern Uganda, is among the skeptics.

"As I speak now, there is no political will," he said. "You can see what happened in Juba (with the pledge of compensation)." Kagoda acknowledged that the reintegration process had fallen short.

"It's not sufficient to just reinsert somebody into the community and forget about him. There is the follow-up; you visit regularly, see how well he or she is getting on in the community where he or she went back to," he said.

Other question whether the amnesty act should have been renewed at all. They note the measure has prevented alleged perpetrators of major crimes from being brought to justice.

International lawyer David Donat Cattin, of the group Parliamentarians for Global Action, sees the need for criminal trials in northern Uganda as essential to long-term stability in the region.

"It is not a matter of punishing those people; it's a matter of bringing them to justice, making the truth known through a proper process, having it officially acknowledged in the records, in the history books," he said.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

US strength of ideas unparalleled

By FRIDA GHITIS
McClatchy Newspapers

Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for The Miami Herald*. Readers may send her email at fjghitis@gmail.com.*

Is the United States about to lose its place as the most powerful nation on Earth?

It's easy to argue the United States will fall behind as a global leader. But I believe there is reason to expect America will remain the world's most influential country, even if the Chinese economy overtakes it, it loses in Afghanistan or continues struggling with a massive national debt.

Without a doubt, the distance between the United States and its closest competitors has shrunk in the last couple of decades. After the Soviet Union collapsed two decades ago we switched from a "bipolar" world in which the United States and the U.S.S.R. stood as the two centers of power to a "unipolar" one with the United States far ahead of all rivals.

Today, the world is changing at a rapid pace. Several centers of power are emerging, in what political scientists have dubbed the "multipolar" world.

We don't know precisely where those "poles" will have their center of gravity. I expect we will see an American-led Western Center, anchored by the United States and its European allies. Beijing will steer the China Center. Thirdly, Moscow, as Vladimir Putin has just asserted, will seek to reinvigorate a Eurasian alliance made up of mostly of the former Soviet Republics. We may also see a fourth center of power in the Middle East, possibly an Islamist bloc led by Turkey or perhaps Egypt, and encompassing the post-revolutionary democracies of the Arab uprisings, likely to be governed by Islamic parties.

Another tier of countries will choose their alliances carefully. Strong emerging economies such as Brazil, India, Malaysia and others will become the prize that the main blocs will seek to further their economic ambitions and political influence.

But which bloc will cast the largest shadow on the global stage? I believe the United States and Europe, with all their problems, will remain the most powerful, the most philosophically and socially influential, and probably the most prosperous of all.

There is no question that Western economies have seen better days. And no one can argue with the fact that China's GDP, its total economic output, is expanding at a rate seldom seen in history.

Beijing presides over the world's second largest economy. At the current rate, according to the International Monetary Fund, China's economy will become larger than America's in less than five years.

Still, it's worth noting that even then the average Chinese will have a much lower standard of living than the average American. The IMF ranked China at number 91 on per capita income last year, with the average annual income at $5,184, with the United States at number 15, with annual per capita income of more than $48,000.

Even with the unfavorable trends, it will take a long time before China, or any other major country, overtakes the United States and its European allies on living standards. The same is true for military might.

But the more important question is which bloc will exercise more influence by the force of its ideals. These four "empires" will not conquer the world at the point of a sword the way great powers did in previous centuries.

Their influence will be felt in trade, in communications and, most of all, in ideas.

The ideas of the U.S.-led bloc remain the most powerful and inspiring.

The ideologies of freedom of the press, freedom of thought, freedom of religion, rule of law, entrepreneurial spirit and creativity, are the most magnetic on earth, with all others far behind.

China may be conquering markets, but its pseudo-communist ideology does not even survive in China. Moscow has no ideology, not even of the pseudo variety. Islamic countries, even those trying to model themselves on Turkey's free market, democratic ideology, have limited appeal to the non-Islamic rest of the world.

The only ideology, the only way of life that has widespread, powerful appeal beyond its borders is the one that has grown roots, flaws and all, in the United States. It is already replicated, with variations, in all corners of the globe. Only the Western alliance has the proven ability to develop strong ideological links across the globe.

It is an adaptable system with established credentials among all ethnic groups and religions in all geographical areas.

Consider that some of America and the West's closest friends are not even in the Western hemisphere. Some of America's best allies, Australia, South Korea, Israel and Colombia, are nowhere near the United States. America faces serious problems and major challenges. But there is every reason to expect it will remain the most influential nation on Earth for many years to come.

In Pakistan, things still unsettled one year after killing of bin Laden

By RAFIA ZAKARIA
MCT

Rafia Zakaria is a columnist for Dawn, Pakistan's leading English-language daily, and author of the forthcoming book "Silence in Karachi" (Beacon Press).

One year after the killing of Osama bin Laden in Pakistan on May 2, things are far from settled in that part of the world.

The most familiar image of the event is not of the dead man. It is instead of the people who ordered the raid: President Obama and his closest advisers watching via satellite in the White House "situation room" details unfolding thousands of miles away. Such depictions portray an American victory.

But if Americans were presented with a picture of war that went beyond its reflection on American faces to include its impact on Pakistani lives they would see a reality that would alarm them. If the American landscape of the war on terror were repainted to include Pakistan, it would be painted not in the certainty of black and white, but in shades of gray. In the country where bin Laden was killed, his death has delivered no fewer terror attacks and no less uncertainty. In fact, more than two-thirds of educated Pakistani citizens do not believe that he was ever captured or killed. Unlike Americans, they cannot overlook that the picture of his demise includes neither the man killed nor the country where he died.

Pakistani skepticism is not simply poised on the absence of pictures. If bin Laden's death was a fatal blow to terror, Pakistanis question, why then the continuation of its deadly onslaught in their cities and towns and villages? The year 2011 instead saw an escalation in terror attacks, with 4,447 killed in 476 incidents. More Pakistanis lost their lives in a single year than Americans in the entire decade since 9/11, more than half dying after the mastermind of terror had already been tossed into the sea. And in U.S. drone attacks "since Obama took office three years ago, between 282 and 535 civilians have been credibly reported as killed, including more than 60 children," reports the London-based Bureau of Investigative Journalism.

Pakistani doubts of American victories are not fed by death alone. In the year since bin Laden's killing, displacement caused by CIA-operated drones and security operations has left nearly 200,000 people homeless, according to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. The wandering families have taken with them the bitterness of conflict and spread it all around Pakistan. In the southern city of Karachi alone, a destination for many Pashtun migrants from the northwest, more than 1,000 people have died in skirmishes between those currently controlling the city and the new arrivals.

There is no room in American visions of victory for ordinary Pakistanis—those paying in death, devastation and displacement the cost of a war whose pictures do not include them.

Odds stacked against observer mission in Syria

By POPPY MCPHERSON
THE INSTITUTE FOR WAR & PEACE REPORTING

LONDON—Experts warn that the U.N. observer mission to Syria will have no impact on the ongoing violence unless its numbers are significantly increased and it is given considerably more freedom and power.

Seven unarmed U.N. military observers were deployed to Syria to monitor the ceasefire announced on April 12, and to prepare for the arrival of a larger contingent of up to 250 monitors.

But the violence has continued despite the supposed truce, with activists and international aid groups arguing that the mission lacks the power to stop abuses.

Adam Simons, director of the Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect, said the mission "needs to be rapidly expanded in size and scope," and warns that the conflict could descend into a severe humanitarian crisis if the international community fails to act.

"History has been unforgiving in response to international inaction and frailty in Rwanda and Bosnia during the 1990s," he added.

The observers are supposed to monitor the implementation of a six-point plan to halt the violence proposed by Kofi Annan, the joint U.N. and Arab League envoy for Syria.

The preliminary agreement between Damascus and the U.N. on their deployment calls on the Syrian government to "implement visibly" its commitment to a ceasefire, to ensure the observers are freed to travel anywhere in the country, to take pictures and to use technology to check compliance with the ceasefire.

But the monitors have so far not ventured beyond the suburbs of Damascus and have been forbidden from visiting Homs, the city considered the center of the uprising, where protests have continued despite ongoing shelling.

No agreement has yet been reached on whether aircraft can be deployed as part of the observer mission, despite calls by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to send in helicopters to get a clearer view of developments.

Chris Doyle, director of the Council for Arab-British Understanding, said that even a force of a few hundred would be too small to operate in a country with a population of more than 22 million.

"The regime controls access and who will be coming in and out," he said. "In a perfect world, this would be a perfectly independent and transparent mission, but of course the regime doesn't want that."

Akil Hashim, a retired brigadier-general in the Syrian army who now lives in Paris and is involved with the opposition, said the military observer mission was little more than an echo of the failed Arab League initiative in January, in which observers dispatched to Syria failed to calm the situation.

He accused the international community of a "lack of determination to intervene in Syria," and called on the U.N. to establish buffer zones on its borders.

"How could great countries accept the fact that this regime is saying it accepts the plan but is continuing killing people until now, until this moment?" he asked. "Intervention will come, but not until 20,000, 30,000 people are dead."

Radwan Ziadeh, a member of the opposition Syrian National Council, SNC, said that the whole idea of sending in observers was flawed.

"I don't see any point in expanding the mission. It will not work," he said. "What can they do? Crimes against humanity have been well documented. We need a practical way to stop the killing.

"The tanks are still in place if you go into the cities. No one has been released from the list of political prisoners that we provided to the U.N. We are very disappointed."

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

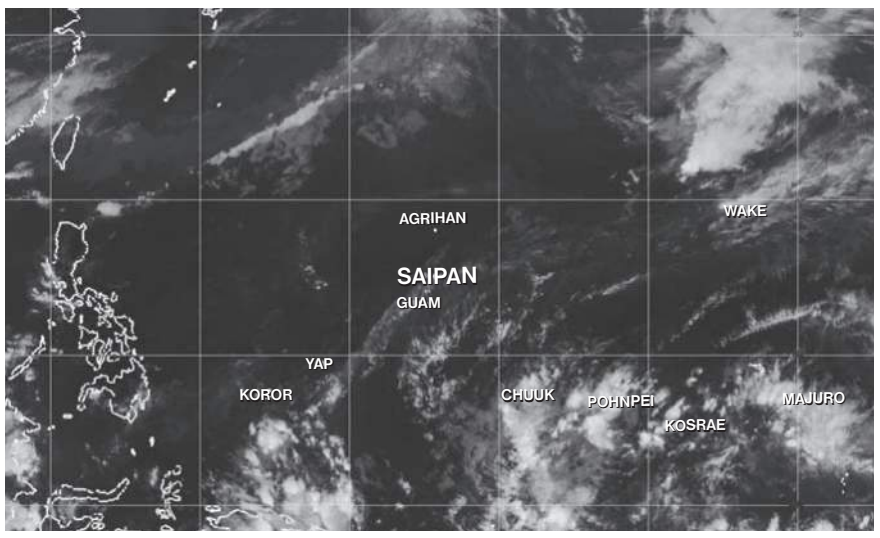
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲90	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲66	▼58
Beijing	Sunny	▲72	▼46
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲79	▼77
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼72
London	Rain	▲52	▼46
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲75	▼57
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲95	▼83
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼49
Miami	Thundershowers	▲80	▼73
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼42
Osaka	Cloudy	▲75	▼56
Paris	Rain	▲57	▼50
Pusan	Cloudy	▲67	▼55
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼58
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼48
San Francisco	Sunny	▲68	▼56
Seoul	Sunny	▲76	▼49
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼59
Washington, DC	Showers	▲58	▼47

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N134E to beyond 130E at 23N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 100 miles northwest of the front. A shear line runs from 21N180 westward to 20N170E past Wake Island to near 19N164E. Cloudiness and scattered light showers are occurring near and up to 250 miles north of this boundary. A weak trough east of the Marianas extends from 15N153E to 18N158E. Low-level convergence east of the trough is producing scattered showers within 50 miles either side of a line from 15N161E to 19N164E west of Wake Island. A weakening disturbance is producing scattered showers south of Palau and Yap in the area bounded by EQ132E to 6N135E to 8N141E to EQ141E back to EQ132E. A weak surface trough west of Chuuk is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 5N and 9N from 145E to 149E. Another surface trough along 155E between Chuuk and Pohnpei is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the area bounded by EQ1554E to 8N156E to 5N160E to 2N159E back to EQ155E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands between 4N and 8N from 169E to 178E including Majuro.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:59 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
7:33 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
12:01 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
7:33 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:55 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM
Monday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Tuesday	5:54 AM	6:35 PM
Wednesday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:05 AM	
Sunday	11:57 AM	12:07 AM
Monday	12:50 PM	12:51 AM
Tuesday	1:45 PM	1:34 AM
Wednesday	2:40 PM	2:18 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat)
Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Church 360
Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building).
Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116
Celebration Service: Sundays at 10:15am
Prayer Fellowship: Thursdays at 6:30pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 28, 1999

Boat operators hit DLNR
Five boat operators yesterday hit the Department of Lands and Natural Resources for adopting regulations that will force them to leave the Smiling Cove and relocate to the Outer Cove Marina. In a statement faxed to various media offices, the boat operators, namely, Saipan Sunset Cruise, BSEA Inc., Island Cruise Line Saipan, Abracadabra Aquaventures and Allied Marine, claimed that the proposed rules and regulations for the Outer Cove Marina were specifically adopted to save the Marine Revitalization Corp. from bankruptcy. MRC, which built the OUter Marina Cove, is a non-profit organization formed by businessman Anthony Pellegrino. To justify the issuance of the emergency rules and regulations, DLNR claimed that the Smiling Cove Marina is overcrowded, its navigational channel congested and the outer shores are dangerously eroded.

CPA criticized for dragging its feet on incentives
Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez yesterday criticized the Commonwealth Ports Authority for being "slow" in providing incentives to airlines servicing the Northern Marianas, saying the government has been requesting them this package since last year. While CPA has agreed to slash by half the arrival and departure fees paid by the airlines, the senator believed this is not enough as the Aviation Task Force has been asking also a cut in the landing fees. "CPA has been very slow in providing these incentives," Villagomez told in an interview, noting the task force, of which he is a member, has prodded ports authority to offer incentive package to airlines since last year to help them cope with the economic crisis.

Apr. 28, 2000

CUC: Lack of legal counsel impedes power project
The procurement of the controversial Saipan power project now hinges on how soon the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation can find a private law firm that will guide the board in implementing the law requiring the installation of a plant with 80 megawatts capacity. The CUC board yesterday opened its search for a lawyer on island who will be hired within the next two weeks to provide legal services on such matters as the much delayed power project. Its current legal counsel, Assistant Attorney General Bill Ohle, has resigned and is expected to end his term on June after more than four years with the government-owned utility corporation.

Rota water supply drops to critical level
Rota residents may face water rationing by tomorrow after the Water Cave, its prime source of tap water, has fallen "alarmingly" below the normal level in the past few weeks, according to officials. Antonio Reyes, deputy director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for the island municipality, called for immediate help from the central office to avert what he said as "inevitable" water rationing there. The measure will be implemented by Saturday, April 29, or early next week, he told a CUC board meeting yesterday. He asked the U.S. Geological Survey to pump additional 650,000 gallons a day to prevent the situation from worsening.

Apr. 28, 2003

NMC board OKs Pacific Gateway
The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents unanimously approved Friday the NMC's proposed Pacific Gateway program, which aims to recruit more international students to boost the college's financial resources. "We formally adopted the Pacific Gateway project. We've been working on it in the last few months. We're ready now to refer it for the Legislature's approval and endorsement," NMC board chairman Vince Seman said. In advocating the program, which requires an initial $10 million capital from the CNMI government, Seman said it would showcase the NMC "as a contributing member to the overall economy."

Hakubotan directed to pay $1.69 million
Hakubotan, which used to be Saipan's second biggest duty-free shop before ceasing operations locally, may be in for further distress, after the Guam Superior Court ordered it to pay close to $1.7 million to a private firm. Judge Michael J. Bordallo declared Hakubotan in default, in a lawsuit filed by the Guam Marine Salvage Services Inc. The judge also issued the judgment against businessmen Toshio and Hideko Okuhama, and Takayuki and Yuichi Takayama.

Maharlika

No word yet on petition to keep Consulate on Saipan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs has yet to react and take action to the petition of Filipinos in the CNMI calling for the retention of the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan.

United Filipino Organization, the umbrella organization of some 30 Filipino groups in the Commonwealth, spearheaded the petition in February to oppose DFA's plan to close down the Saipan Consulate and other consular offices within the year.

UFO president Bong Malasarte yesterday expressed dismay over the lack of response two months after sending the petition to DFA secretary Albert F. Del Rosario and other government offices that received hand-delivered copies of the petition, including the Office of the President, Office of House Speaker Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte, House Committee on Foreign Affairs chair Al Francis Bichara, and Senate Committee on Foreign Relations chair Loren Legarda.

Malasarte said over 4,800 Filipinos signed the petition in support of the clamor not to shut down the Consulate, the last day for which is Oct. 31. However, several hundreds more endorsed the petition at the last minute, bringing the total number of signatures to about 5,300.

The petition was supported by a separate letter from Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez, apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, who wrote the appeal on behalf of the 13 parishes in the CNMI for the Consulate to continue its operations and ensure the rights, interests, and welfare of Filipinos living and working in the islands.

"We haven't received any answer from them and we are in the process of following up on this matter through our UFO members based in Manila," Malasarte told *Saipan Tribune*.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig, in a separate interview, said that the petition was never discussed when he met with Del Rosario and other consular heads in the U.S. in early March.

"The petition was never discussed during that meeting and even to this day. But I don't want to follow up on this because it's almost always interpreted that it's my initiative," said Macaraig.

He noted, though, that the petition merits a response or a course of action from DFA.

"The closure of the Consulate is a done deal now but the only thing that can affect it is the petition from the community. That's the only thing that's still in play," Macaraig emphasized.

UFO's Malasarte, for his part, said that while their group is already working on getting a reply from the Philippine government regarding the petition, they cannot implore these officials or expedite whatever protocol their agencies follow.

"But as soon as we hear from them, we will surely inform the Filipino community because they deserve to know the answer," he added.

Malasarte also welcomed any individuals or groups that want to extend assistance in following up on the petition.

"Anything that would help our appeal to retain the Consulate's presence in the CNMI is always welcome because it would benefit all Filipinos here in the islands," he said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan, led by Consul General Medardo Macaraig, poses with staff of JC Café on Tinian.

PH Consulate General bids farewell to Tinian Pinoys

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan bid farewell to the Filipino community on Tinian as it held its final mobile consular services at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and JC Café last April 21 and 22.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig led the team that carried out the mobile consular services, which included Consulate staffers Jose Sto. Domingo, Nerisa Anastacio, Liza Dean, Lauren Arce, Antonio David, and Antonette Ocon.

Last Sunday's event rendered a total of 294 services to Filipinos on Tinian—an increase of 63 percent compared to the 119 services provided during the last mobile consular services held in September 2011.

Of the 294 services, 82 were for passport renewals and eight for new applications; 10 reports of birth; 10 special powers of attorney; two affidavits; two reports of marriage; 134 memberships with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration; five overseas employment certificates; and 41 applications for overseas absentee voting.

This will be the last mobile consular services for Tinian as the Consulate's last day of service to the entire Filipino community in the CNMI is on Oct. 31, after which the Philippine Consulate in Guam will be exercising consular jurisdiction in the Commonwealth.

Macaraig, in an interview yesterday, noted an increase in activities at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, which is said is "good because there's a lot of Filipinos employed there."

He also pointed out that it was their first time for their group to conduct mobile consular services at JC Café, which many of the Filipinos preferred because of its "relatively informal ambiance."

According to Macaraig, many of the Filipinos they met on Tinian last week are still worried about the imminent closure of the Saipan Consulate which regularly conducts mobile consular services to both Tinian and Rota.

"A lot of people are concerned about the closure but the Department of Foreign Affairs is planning a lot of things to alleviate these concerns," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

These "things," Macaraig said, include having the Guam Consulate carry on the mobile consular services. He earlier said that Guam Consul General Bayani Mangibin expressed his commitment to take over the responsibilities of both Saipan and Palau consular offices, which are among the posts that will be shut down by DFA within the year.

Moreover, Macaraig said he is working on finalizing his nominees for honorary consul on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

While he has yet to decide on his nominee for Tinian honorary consul, Macaraig pointed out that there will at least be an honorary consul from Saipan who can assist the Filipinos on Tinian.

Macaraig said that the shortlisted names will be submitted to and have to be approved by DFA and acknowledged by the U.S. State Department.

Macaraig recognized Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, Fr. Isidro Ogumoro of San Jose Parish Church, general manager Tom Liu of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, Jimmy Casauran and the rest of Tinian Dynasty staff, Lot Gunao and the JC Café staff, and Francisca Esguerra for their assistance to the Consulate during the mobile consular services.

"The Consulate extends its deepest appreciation to the people of Tinian for their support and requests that the same warm and friendly reception be extended to the Philippine Consulate General in Guam," added Macaraig.

A consular team will also conduct the final mobile consular services on Rota at the Northern Marianas College on April 28 and 29.

Final medical mission draws 84

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The last medical mission conducted by the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ 4th Watch drew 84 individuals who availed of their free medical and other services at the Susupe basketball court last April 22.

Church pastor Claire Javillonar noted that most of them were Susupe residents while others are from neighboring villages.

Services provided at the event included blood sugar and blood pressure check-ups, eye screening, reflexology/body massage, cleansing/facial massage, haircut, and counseling.

"From February to April 2012, we were able to serve more than 200 villagers already," Javillonar told *Saipan Tribune*. "And more volunteers are coming to help."

Last Sunday's volunteers were University of Loyola nurses Katrina Demapan and Mavic Guerrero; Marianas Eye Institute's Erlinda Muleta; Tropical Blend Salon & Spa's Rhea Cuzon; haircut provided by Malou Manglona and Sonora Cruz; massage by Lorna Alcala, Tonton Buenaflor, Edith Locsin, and Nancy Ong; facial cleansing/massage by Annie Perez; tent provided by UR Tent; and refreshments and other assistance by church members.

According to Javillonar, they spend about $250 to $300 for each of their village-to-village medical mission events.

The group will host their next medical mission on May 27, Sunday, in As Lito and on June 23, Saturday on Rota.

Wanted: Sponsors for Pistang Pinoy

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization is now actively seeking corporate sponsors for this year's Pistang Pinoy (Filipino Fiesta) event.

Bong Malasarte, president of the umbrella organization of some 30 Filipino groups in the CNMI, said yesterday that donations from various business establishments and organizations abet their financial constraints in hosting one of UFO's annual events.

The 2012 Pistang Pinoy is slated for June 10, a Sunday, and the event coincides with the commemoration of Philippine Independence Day every June 12.

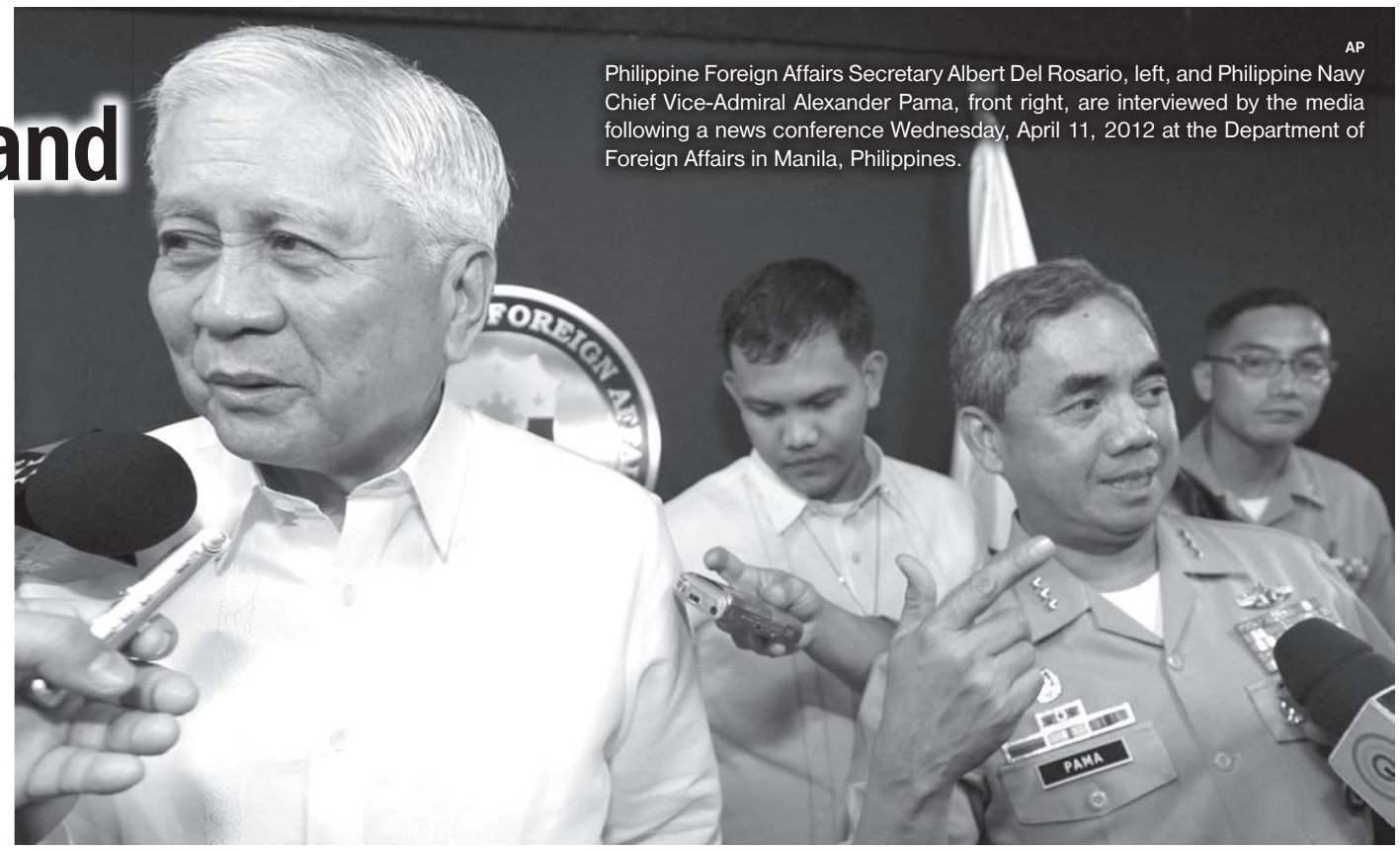
The event highlights Philippine cultures and traditions through performances and presentations from different Filipino groups on island.

It also features fun and exciting activities, including singing contest, cooking competition, and a basketball tournament.

"We understand the difficult economic situation that's affecting everyone, but year after year, we have generous sponsors that support our endeavors aimed at involving not just Filipinos on island but the entire island community for a fun-filled celebration. Once again, we are calling on them to join us and give the community an event they can look forward to," Malasarte told *Saipan Tribune*.

This year's Pistang Pinoy festivities will also be the last for the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan following its announcement to shut down its operations after Oct. 31.

PH-China standoff could spin out of hand



AP

Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert Del Rosario, left, and Philippine Navy Chief Vice-Admiral Alexander Pama, front right, are interviewed by the media following a news conference Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila, Philippines.

HRVOJE HRANJSKI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—It started like many other minor confrontations over the specks of isles dotting some of the world's busiest shipping lanes. But the risks in the latest flare-up over a South China Sea shoal are much bigger than the territory itself.

Armed vessels from the Philippines and its much more powerful neighbor, China, have faced off for two weeks at the horseshoe-shaped Scarborough Shoal. Either side could miscalculate—and consequences could bear down on the whole region, and drag in the U.S. too.

Here's a look at the key players, issues and what's at stake:

HOW IT STARTED:
The Philippine navy says it caught Chinese fishermen poaching, and on April 10 two Chinese vessels moved in to protect them. The fishing boats slipped away, leaving behind a tense standoff with each side hoping the other will pull out first.

HISTORY OF FLASHPOINTS:
The shoal is among 200 islands, coral outcrops and banks spread over the South China Sea, with rich fishing grounds and other resources. The biggest of them are the Spratlys, claimed all or in part by the Philippines, China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Brunei and Vietnam.

There have been sporadic shootouts at sea in the past few decades—China-Vietnam, China-Philippines, Taiwan-Vietnam and Philippines-Vietnam—with navies sinking ships and fortifying disputed islands. A major clash in 1988 between China and Vietnam killed 64 Vietnamese soldiers. China took over the Philippine-occupied Mischief Reef in a surprise mini-invasion in 1995.

Then in 2002, all parties agreed to a status quo.

It largely held. Until now.

POLITICAL CONTEXT:
Last year, Manila accused Chinese vessels of blocking its energy exploration ships in Philippine waters and firing to scare away Philippine fishermen.

It was just a year after Philippine President Benigno Aquino III took office promising to fight corruption and restore national dignity. His predecessor, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, was accused of cozying up to Beijing and corrupt deals with Chinese investors. Contracts were scrapped, and Aquino turned to the country's traditional ally, the United States, just as President Barack Obama sought to re-engage in Asia.

On the other hand, China—as a rising economic and military power—is asserting territorial claims and in no mood to show weakness.

OVERLAPPING CLAIMS:
Scarborough Shoal lies within Manila's 370-kilometer (230-mile) exclusive economic zone, recognized under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea. But China says the Philippines is misinterpreting the law. Beijing's position is based on ancient maps, though it's unclear how much weight they carry today.

China's map submitted to the U.N. in 2009 claims virtually the entire South China Sea, but Beijing has failed to clarify the exact extent of its claims. It turned down a Philippine invitation for international arbitration.

US ROLE:
Manila feels—and so does China—that the Philippines has U.S. backing.

That's true up to a point.

The U.S. is obligated to defend the Philippines from outside aggression under a defense treaty, and has close ties with Manila's security forces in their fight against southern Muslim militants. Recently, Washington has helped modernize the poorly armed Philippine forces, particularly the navy.

Washington angered Beijing in 2010 when it declared that unimpeded commerce and resolution of disputes in the South China Sea are in the U.S. interest.

But the U.S.—with ever-increasing economic ties to China—has always maintained it is not taking sides.

GAS AND OIL FACTOR:
Some of the tensions involve competition for petroleum. However, it isn't clear how much the region holds and most published surveys suggest little evidence of substantial reserves apart from natural gas.

The overlapping territorial claims make exploratory drilling difficult.

The Philippines' Malampaya and Camago fields, containing up to 4.4 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, are in waters claimed by China. Still, Manila has developed the fields and built a pipeline that already delivers gas that has become vital to its economy. But a Philippine plan to invite bids to explore two other areas has drawn strong Chinese protests and fears of escalating confrontations.

Rare Philippine turtles returned by Hong Kong

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Turtles represent longevity and good luck, and that's certainly true for 18 rare smuggled turtles that were returned from Hong Kong to their native Philippines.

Philippine Wildlife Bureau head Mundita Lim says the pond turtles were confiscated at the Hong Kong airport in February from a Chinese student, along with 13 more common box turtles.

Pond turtles live only in forests on Palawan Island southwest of Manila. Only about 120 remain in the wild. Lim says they are prized as novelty pets or food.

Philippine officials took the unprecedented step of traveling to Hong Kong and retrieving the turtles because they are so rare. Palawan's governor received the turtles at the Manila airport Friday.

The 18 will be rehabilitated before being released in the wild.

AP

A smuggled rare pond turtle, only about 120 remain in the wild, is presented to the media upon arrival along with 17 others to their native Philippines from Hong Kong Friday, April 27, 2012 at Manila's international airport.

Philippines ambassador condemns Marion Barry

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Philippines is condemning D.C. Councilmember Marion Barry for remarks critical of local hospitals for hiring Filipino nurses instead of District of Columbia residents.

Filipino Ambassador Jose Cuisia issued a statement Wednesday calling Barry's comments "intolerant and narrow-minded."

Barry said at a council hearing on Monday that many hospitals hire "immigrants who are nurses, particularly from the Philippines." He said that instead, nursing schools in the district should be training local residents to work in the industry and address nursing shortages.

Cuisia says Barry's "penchant for blaming Asians ... fuels racism, discrimination and violence."

Barry also drew attention this month for comments criticizing Asian-owned businesses. He later apologized.

No city officials have criticized Barry for the comment about nurses. The district has preferential hiring practices for local residents.

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its **Regular** meeting **Tuesday, May 01, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.** at the **NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.**

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
  D. Adoption of Minutes of Meetings
    1. December 09, 2011 (Regular)
    2. March 08, 2012 (Special)
    3. April 04, 2012 (Special)
    4. April 17, 2012 (Special)
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  A. Communications
    1. Chairwoman/Trustees
    2. Administrator/Deputy
      a. Status / Updates
      b. Administrative
      c. Member Home Loan
      d. Investment / CDARS
  B. Accounting
    1. NMI Retirement Fund
    2. GHLITF
    3. WCC
  C. Internal Auditor
  D. Board Committees
    1. Joint (F&I and OPR)
IV. OLD BUSINESS
  A. RFP No. 11-005 Financial Audit
  B. Litigation Strategy
V. NEW BUSINESS
  A. Actions for Potential Loss of Quorum
  B. Case No. BK 12-00003
VI. LEGAL MATTERS
  A. Reports
    1. Legal / Board Counsel
    2. Administrative Hearing Officer
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. MISCELLANEOUS
  A. Other Related Matters
  B. Next Meeting
  C. Adjournment

/s/ BERNADITA C. PALACIOS
CHAIRWOMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

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AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. OLD BUSINESS
  A. In re the Matter of ISP – NMIRF Case No. 08-001
  B. In re the Matter of JBD – NMIRF Case No. 09-008
  C. In re the Matter of JMM – NMIRF Case No. 10-005
  D. In re the Matter of JSB – NMIRF Case No. 10-008
IV. NEW BUSINESS
  A. In re the Matter of WST – NMRF Case No. 09-009
  B. In re the Matter of MSN – NMRF Case No. 10-004
  C. In re the Matter of IS – NMRF Case No. 10-006
  D. In re the Matter of LBM – NMRF Case No. 11-003
  E. In re the Matter of CLC – NMRF Case No. 12-002
  F. In re the Matter of LST – NMRF Case No. 12-003
V. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VI. MISCELLANEOUS
  A. Other Related Matters
  B. Next Meeting
  C. Adjournment

/s/ BERNADITA C. PALACIOS
CHAIRWOMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Samu't Sari

NEW DCD CHAIR CLARISSA V. DAVID

Commonwealth Development Authority board member Tom Glenn Quitugua, right, reaches for the gavel as he presides over the meeting of the Development Corporation Division, the agenchy's private-sector lending arm, Thursday. Quitugua was voted yesterday as the new DCD chair, replacing Marcie Tomokane who is now the vice chair.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH CLARISSA V. DAVID

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, second left, joins other government officials and clients at the Aging Center after the signing the proclamation designating May as Older Americans Month/Mes Man'amko/Maramal Tuufey Thursday at the Office on Aging.

SUPPORTING THE HUMANITIES CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Moylan's Insurance Underwriters, Inc. has donated $2,000 to the Northern Marianas Humanities Council. Liza C. Anda, Moylan's Health PlanningcCoordinator, center right, presents the check to council board chair Tracy M. Guerrero. Also pictured, from left, are council board member David J. Attao, Moylan's general manager Cathy Tenorio, council board members Joann T. Aquino and Robert Hunter, and council program officer Eulalia S. Villagomez. The council will use the donation to support upcoming public humanities programs and initiatives.

UNSPENT FEDERAL FUNDS HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Paul Milo, an employee of GPPC Inc., carries a drum barricade at the soon-to-be completed Phase 2A component of the Cross Island Road Project in Papago last week.

G4S EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

G4S Secure Solution (CNMI) Inc. lifeguard Jake Demapan and Santiago Castro were named employees of the month of the security company for April. They are shown here after being presented with their certificate of appreciation by G4S CNMI branch manager Moises K. Pangelinan and Safety Security manager Mafijul Islam. Both were also recognized by Fiesta Resort & Spa management for their great accomplishments.

MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE

Members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457 gathered on April 19, 2012, to present a Certificate of Remembrance to former Saipan Mayor Jose C. Sablan and his wife, Janice A. Sablan, in honor of their son, George Joseph A. Sablan (Keoki). Sablan passed away during a training exercise at Hawaii in preparation for deployment to Afghanastan. The certificate, signed by Richard DeNoyer, the National Commander-In-Chief of the VFW, praises the service of Sablan and honors him for the sacrifices he made to keep our nation free.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 4th birthday Justin Dylan Castro Aguon a.k.a Tino Boy! Love and miss you so much. From Auntie Katie.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LAW WEEK CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Southern High School students seek answers during dress rehearsal at Federal District Court prior to National "We the People" Competition in Washington, D.C.

Business

Murdoch: Hacking scandal changed my entire company

LONDON (AP)—Rupert Murdoch used his testimony before a U.K. inquiry on Thursday to portray himself as the victim, not perpetrator, of a cover-up over phone hacking—a bold claim unlikely to be accepted by those suing his company for invading their privacy.

The 81-year-old media magnate apologized. He said he had failed. He noted that the corporate cleanup of the British phone hacking scandal had cost his New York-based News Corp. hundreds of millions of dollars and transformed its culture.

"I failed, and I'm sorry about it," Murdoch said, adding later: "We are now a new company altogether."

Murdoch's two days of testimony, which began Wednesday, marked his attempt to corral the scandal that has rocked Britain, tainted senior politicians, prompted top police commanders and media executives to resign and affected large swathes of his media empire.

It boiled over in July after it became clear that journalists at Murdoch's now-shuttered News of the World tabloid routinely broke the law in pursuit of scoops, with Murdoch-friendly police and politicians turning a blind eye to a litany of abuses including illegal espionage and bribery.

The scandal prompted Prime Minister David Cameron to order a wide-ranging judicial inquiry into the country's media, which has heard from a range of journalists and public figures. Murdoch's testimony was the most hotly anticipated thus far.

Murdoch's words, delivered under oath, offered an unusual public glimpse into the media mogul's personality, alternately combative and contrite. Murdoch showed the occasional sign of annoyance, but pointed questions about his alleged vast political influence and business interests were largely parried with firm denials and touches of dry wit.

A few new revelations tumbled out, among them his admission Thursday that his dramatic decision to shut down the 168-year-old News of the World—the Sunday paper at the center of the scandal—was an impulse move. He said he snapped his fingers and "it was done like that."

"I panicked. But I'm glad I did," Murdoch said, explaining that he'd long wanted to replace the paper with a Sunday edition of The Sun, his top-selling tabloid.

AP

News Corp. chairman Rupert Murdoch and his wife Wendi Deng leave the High Court in London after giving evidence to the Leveson inquiry, Thursday, April 26, 2012.

Murdoch also revealed that he had been taken aback at the size of the 2008 payout made to phone hacking victim and former England soccer manager Gordon Taylor—testimony at odds with what his son James Murdoch told the inquiry earlier in the week.

The elder Murdoch's admission was important, because critics have alleged that the $1 million settlement to Taylor—10 to 20 times larger than a typical payout for breach of privacy—was intended to bury the hacking scandal.

If James Murdoch knew that the settlement was outrageously large when he signed off on it, it would strengthen the argument that the 39-year-old media executive knew that the payout was aimed at hiding wrongdoing.

The younger Murdoch said Tuesday that, at the time, he had no way of knowing whether the sum was particularly large. But the elder Murdoch expressed no such doubts Thursday.

"The size seemed incredible," Murdoch said. "It still does seem incredible."

Overall, Murdoch stuck to the line that he and his son were deliberately kept in the dark by subordinates about the illegal behavior at the News of the World.

"The senior executives were all misinformed, and shielded from anything that was going on there," he told the inquiry. "I do blame one or two people for that."

He didn't name them, but he identified one as "a clever lawyer" who shared drinks with many of the journalists involved—a transparent reference to News International legal manager Tom Crone.

Crone, in a statement, called Murdoch's testimony "a shameful lie."

Murdoch seemed to catch Lord Justice Brian Leveson, the head of the media inquiry, off guard with his statement that "a journalist doing a favor for someone and getting a favor back is pretty much everyday practice."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US unemployment aid requests near 3-month high

WASHINGTON (AP)—The number of people seeking U.S. unemployment benefits remained stuck near a three-month high last week, a sign that job gains will likely remain modest. The report disappointed economists, who had forecast a decline in unemployment applications. Even so, most analysts think employers will add about 175,000 jobs this month. That would be more than in March but less than the robust job growth achieved during the winter. Last week, applications for unemployment aid dipped to a seasonally adjusted 388,000, the Labor Department said Thursday. That was little changed from the previous week's figure, the highest since Jan. 7.

CDC: Airline passenger didn't have monkeypox

CHICAGO (AP)—Authorities say passengers aboard a Delta Airlines flight from Detroit were kept from disembarking in Chicago for about three hours after one person was suspected of carrying a disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the passenger was evaluated shortly after the plane landed Thursday afternoon at Midway International Airport. The CDC says emergency medical personnel determined the woman's rash was not related to monkeypox, which had been suspected. In its statement, the CDC says the woman was cleared but advised to seek medical care.

Japan's industrial output rises 1 percent in March

TOKYO (AP)—Japan says its industrial production in March inched up 1.0 percent from February after declining the previous month amid a fragile recovery in the world's third-largest economy. Production was lifted by an increase in automobile output as well as communications electronics equipment, the Ministry of Trade, Economy and Industry said Friday. Meanwhile, the country's jobless rate remained unchanged at 4.5 percent in March, the government said.

Smartphones fuel Samsung profit to record

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A surge in Galaxy smartphone sales fueled earnings at Samsung Electronics to a record high in the first quarter, usually a tough season for the global consumer electronics industry, outshining handset rivals such as Nokia Corp.

Samsung probably sold more smartphones in the first three months of the year than Apple Inc., analysts said, and raked in more than 70 percent of its operating profit from mobile businesses. Shares of Samsung Electronics Co. shot up nearly 3 percent.

Net profit nearly doubled from a year earlier to a record 5.05 trillion won ($4.46 billion) for the fiscal quarter ended March 31.

Operating profit also logged a record high: 5.85 trillion won, which was in line with the company's guidance provided earlier this month. Sales rose 22 percent from a year earlier to 45.3 trillion won.

Strong demand for high-end smartphones, such as the Galaxy Note and the Galaxy S2 introduced last year, helped mask lower profit from memory chips, another Samsung flagship business.

"It was a shock for semiconductor, a surprise for handset," said Lee Ka-keun, a Seoul-based analyst at Hana Daetoo Securities.

The Suwon, Korea-based company expects to outdo its record profit in the coming quarters. It will announce a new version of the Galaxy phone next week and global demand for personal computers is picking up, bringing more cash to memory chipmakers.

"We cautiously expect our earnings momentum to continue going forward, as competitiveness in our major businesses is enhanced," Robert Yi, head of investor relations, said on a conference call.

Samsung's mobile communications division, which includes smartphones, pocketed 4.27 trillion won of operating profit in the quarter after seeing significant sales growth of high-end smartphones in developing markets including China, a key battlefield for mobile phone makers.

Samsung narrowly beat Apple in last year's smartphone shipments, claiming 20 percent of the global market versus Apple's 19 percent, according to Strategy Analytics. Analysts estimated Samsung's smartphone sales during the January-March period exceeded Apple's sales of 35 million iPhones by a large margin.

FTC hires outside lawyer to steer Google probe

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Federal Trade Commission has hired a prominent trial lawyer to oversee its broad investigation into Google's business practices, signaling the agency is troubled by what it has discovered so far in its year-old probe.

Former Justice Department prosecutor Beth Wilkinson will take the reins as the FTC digs deeper into allegations that Google Inc. has been abusing its dominance of Internet search to stifle competition and drive up online advertising prices. The FTC announced the move Thursday. Wilkinson is best known for helping to convict Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh in 1997. Now a partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, in Washington, D.C., Wilkinson also has experience in antitrust law and white-collar criminal cases.

The FTC stressed that Wilkinson's hiring shouldn't be interpreted as a sign it intends to sue Google Inc.

"We are delighted to have someone of her caliber helping us on such an important matter," said Richard Feinstein, director of the FTC's Bureau of Competition.

Wilkinson's involvement in the case is a clear sign that the FTC's staff has uncovered problems that may require taking Google to court to resolve, said Dave Wales, who preceded Feinstein as the FTC's director of competition.

"This may not be a declaration of all-out war, but it's like things have been ratcheted up to `Defcon 4,'" said Wales, now a partner at the law firm of Jones Day. "You don't do something like this unless you think there is a good chance there will be litigation."

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
13,204.62	1,399.98	3,050.61
+113.90	+9.29	+20.98
+0.87%	+0.67%	+0.69%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9641	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7598	Philippine Peso	42.6439
British Pound	0.6180	Indian Rupee	53.2765	Singapore Dollar	1.2419
Canadian Dollar	0.9831	Indonesian Rupiah	9,216.5	South Korean Won	1,136.8
Chinese Yuan	6.3151	Japanese Yen	81.0373	Swiss Franc	0.9085
Euro	0.7560	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0548	Taiwan Dollar	29.3945
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2263	Thailand Baht	30.9119

Nation

Secret Service investigating another overseas trip

WASHINGTON (AP)—Expanding the prostitution investigation, the Secret Service acknowledged Thursday it is checking whether its employees hired strippers and prostitutes in advance of President Barack Obama's visit last year to El Salvador.

The disclosure came not long after the Homeland Security secretary assured skeptical senators that the recent prostitution scandal in Colombia appeared to be an isolated incident.

A spokesman for the Secret Service, Edwin Donovan, said the agency was investigating allegations raised in news reports about unprofessional behavior that have emerged in the aftermath of the Colombia incident. The latest, by Seattle television station KIRO-TV (http://bit.ly/IeN6bv), quoted anonymous sources as saying that Secret Service employees received sexual favors from strippers at a club in San Salvador and took prostitutes to their hotel rooms ahead of Obama's visit to the city in March 2011.

AP

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, April 25, 2012, before the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the Secret Service prostitution scandal that embarrassed the White House and overshadowed the president's visit to a Latin American summit.

Prostitution is legal in both Colombia and El Salvador.

Separately, The Washington Post this week cited unnamed "confidants" of the Secret Service officers implicated in Colombia saying senior managers had tolerated similar behavior during previous official trips. The Post described a visit to Buenos Aires in 2009 by former President Bill Clinton, whose protective detail it said included agents and uniformed officers. During that trip, the Post said, members of the detail went out for a late night of partying at strip clubs.

Donovan said Thursday, "Any information brought to our attention that can be assessed as credible will be followed up on in an appropriate manner."

In a confidential message to senators, also Thursday, the Secret Service said its Office of Professional Responsibility had not received complaints about officer behavior in El Salvador but would investigate. In the message, the agency sought to cast doubt on the KIRO report, noting that it does not routinely send K-9 or explosive-detection units as part of its advance teams; KIRO said the advance team included those elements.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said he doubted that Obama was aware of the allegations about El Salvador when he was briefed by Secret Service Director Mark Sullivan last week in the Oval Office.

The expansion of any investigation into behavior by the Secret Service could represent another mark against an agency that has been tarnished by the prostitution scandal. At a hearing Wednesday on Capitol Hill, senators struggled to reconcile the image of courageous agents assigned to protect the lives of the president and his family with the less savory image that has emerged from its investigation in Colombia so far.

Senators on Thursday questioned Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano's statement during the hearing that she believed the incident in Colombia was an isolated case. Napolitano had said there was no evidence of similar behavior, based on a review of complaints during the past 2.5 years to the agency's Office of Professional Responsibility. She said that if there was a pattern of such behavior, "that would be a surprise to me."

"It sort of defies logic," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who serves on the Judiciary and Armed Services committees, both of which were investigating the case. "The idea that this is the first and only time, it doesn't make sense. For something to get this out of control it has to be a ... cultural blueprint."

The chairman of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., said he has heard additional examples of misconduct, so Napolitano's assurances surprised him. His committee is expected to hold hearings in May.

Lesbian Scout leader ousted in Ohio; parents upset

JOHN SEEWER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The first-graders in Ohio Pack 109's Tiger Scouts didn't know or care their den mother was a lesbian—at least not until the Boy Scouts of America threw her out over the organization's ban on gays.

Now, parents who were aware of Jennifer Tyrrell's sexual orientation well before she took the boys on campouts and helped them carve race cars for the annual Pinewood Derby have rallied to her defense in a case that has re-ignited the debate over the Scouts' policy.

"I teach my children to judge people on their actions," said Rob Dunn, a father in Bridgeport, a village of about 2,000 across the Ohio River from Wheeling, W.Va. "Whether you agree with their lifestyle or not."

The Boy Scouts of America, whose oath calls for members to be "morally straight," maintains that as a private organization it has the right to exclude gays and atheists from its ranks.

That stance was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2000 but has led many state and local governments to deny support for the Scouts.

Male scout leaders who are gay have long been barred, but instances of women being excluded are not well-documented and probably rare. A lesbian couple in Vermont were told two years ago that they could no longer be involved with their son's Scout troop.

Because of the policy, Tyrrell said she only reluctantly allowed her 7-year-old son to join up in Bridgeport, where she lives with her partner and their four children. Told, she said, by the local cub master that it didn't matter that she is a lesbian, she was drafted to lead the pack in September.

AP

This Wednesday, April 25, 2012 photo shows Jennifer Tyrrell and her son Cruz Burns, 7, during a visit to New York.

Tyrrell told parents at their first meeting about her sexual orientation. Some already knew her because she had coached youth baseball and volunteered at school, organizing class parties and reading to children.

"She wasn't trying to hide anything," said Dunn, whose son is among the dozen or so members of the boys-only pack. "Nobody I know of has ever made a single complaint against her."

Tyrrell said she was removed in April, right after she was asked to take over as treasurer of the local Boy Scout troop—which oversees Tiger Scouts, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts—and she raised questions about the finances.

She said the Boy Scout Council for the region told her she had to resign because she is gay.

Supreme court moves to center of presidential race

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court, suddenly at the heart of presidential politics, is preparing what could be blockbuster rulings on health care and immigration shortly before the fall election.

The court, sometimes an afterthought in presidential elections, is throwing a new element of uncertainty into the campaign taking shape between President Barack Obama and presumptive Republican nominee Mitt Romney.

Sharply divided between four conservatives, four liberals and one conservative-leaning swing justice, the court already is viewed as being nearly as partisan as Congress. Within weeks it will rule on the contentious 2010 Democratic-crafted health care overhaul and a Republican-backed Arizona law that's seen as a model for cracking down on illegal immigrants.

Obama sometimes seems to be running against the court, or at least its conservative members. Whether that will sway voters in November is unclear. The public receives far less information and visual imagery of the Supreme Court than it does of the White House and Congress.

An anti-court strategy by Obama "will fire up his base, but I doubt it will make any bigger impact on swing voters," said Republican consultant John Feehery.

Meanwhile, strategists in both parties are hoping they can turn the upcoming decisions to their advantage—for instance, possibly boosting Democratic turnout among Hispanic voters unhappy with GOP immigration policies or emboldening the Republican base if Obama's landmark health care law is ruled unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court already has played a huge and direct role in U.S. presidential politics. Its 5-4 ruling in Bush v. Gore settled the bitter 2000 contest by barring a Florida ballot recount, which Democrats hoped would prevent George W. Bush's election.

And the 2010 Citizens United case, also decided 5-4, greatly eased political spending restrictions on corporations and unions. It gave birth to the "super PACs" that are reshaping campaigns by raising millions of anonymously donated dollars for TV ads attacking Obama, Romney and targeted congressional candidates.

By holding well-publicized hearings on the health care and immigration cases—and now writing keenly awaited decisions—the court is stirring passions on key issues in this year's elections. Less clear, however, is how the politics might play out.

Many court-watchers expect the justices to throw out most or all of the health law, which Republicans derisively call "Obamacare." During public oral arguments, the most conservative justices questioned Congress' authority to require all Americans to obtain health insurance.

Judge denies request to release Bin Laden photos

WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal judge Thursday denied a request to release photos and video taken of Osama bin Laden during and after a raid in which the terrorist leader was killed by U.S. commandos last year.

"The court declines plaintiff's invitation to substitute its own judgment about the national-security risks inherent in releasing these records for that of the executive-branch officials who determined that they should be classified," wrote U.S. District Judge James E. Boasberg in rejecting a lawsuit filed by Judicial Watch, a conservative watchdog group.

The group, which had sought the records under the Freedom of Information Act, filed an appeal on Thursday.

Boasberg said that the Defense Department didn't turn up anything responsive to the FOIA, while the CIA found 52 responsive records. The agency withheld all of them, citing exemptions for classified materials and information specifically exempted by other laws.

Judicial Watch had sued both agencies after they said they would be unable to process the FOIA requests within the time permitted by law. The agencies finished processing the requests after the lawsuit was filed.

"A picture may be worth a thousand words. And perhaps moving pictures bear an even higher value," wrote Boasberg, an appointee of President Barack Obama. "Yet, in this case, verbal descriptions of the death and burial of Osama Bin Laden will have to suffice, for this court will not order the release of anything more."

In court papers, the Justice Department had said that the images of the deceased bin Laden are classified and are being withheld from the public to avoid inciting violence against Americans overseas and compromising secret systems and techniques used by the CIA and the military.

John Bennett, director of the CIA's National Clandestine Service, said in a declaration included in the court papers that many of the photos and video recordings are "quite graphic, as they depict the fatal bullet wound to (bin Laden) and other similarly gruesome images of his corpse." Images were taken of bin Laden's body at the Abbottabad compound, where he was killed by a Navy SEAL team, and during his burial at sea from the USS Carl Vinson, Bennett said.

Asia

Pakistan deports bin Laden family to Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani authorities deported Osama bin Laden's three widows and his children to Saudi Arabia early Friday, less than a week before the first anniversary of the unilateral American raid that killed the al-Qaida leader in his hideout in a military town.

The departure of the family closed another chapter in an affair that cemented Pakistan's reputation as a hub of Islamist extremism and cast doubt on its trustworthiness as a Western ally.

Once outside Pakistan, the wives may be willing to share any information they have about how bin Laden managed to evade capture in the country for nearly a decade following the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks in the United States.

The U.S. commandos took bin Laden's body, which they later buried at sea, but left his family behind. His wives and children were detained by Pakistani authorities immediately after the pre-dawn raid on May 2, 2011.

Two of the widows are from Saudi Arabia, and the third is from Yemen.

They were interrogated by Pakistani intelligence agents and eventually charged last month with illegally entering and living in the country. The three wives and two adult daughters were convicted and sentenced to 45 days in prison. Their prison term, which was spent at a well-guarded house in Islamabad, ended earlier this month.

Soon after midnight Thursday, a van took the women and children from the house in the center of the capital, Islamabad, en route to the airport. Officials covered the vehicle with sheets to prevent photographers from taking their pictures.

A statement from the Interior Ministry said 14 members of the bin Laden family had been deported to the "country of their choice, Saudi Arabia." Few details have been released about the family, but officials have said bin Laden had three wives, at least eight children and some grandchildren living with him in the house when it was raided by the Americans.

The Pakistani government has denied knowing the terrorist leader's whereabouts. U.S. officials say they have no evidence senior Pakistani officials knew bin Laden was in Abbottabad, but questions remain. A Pakistani government commission formed to investigate how bin Laden lived in the country and the circumstances of the American raid has yet to publish its report, but it is widely expected to be a whitewash.

Soon after the raid, American investigators were given access to the wives in Pakistani custody, but one Pakistani intelligence officer has said the women refused to answer their questions.

The Yemeni wife, Amal Ahmed Abdel-Fatah al-Sada, told Pakistani police that the al-Qaida chief lived in five houses while on the run in Pakistan for nine years and fathered four children, two of whom were born in Pakistani government hospitals.

Saudi officials have given little information about the family and the plan to deport them. The country stripped bin Laden of his citizenship in 1994 because of his verbal attacks against the Saudi royal family, and there have been questions about whether the country would accept the women.

Pakistani officials were outraged that the U.S. did not tell them about the operation against bin Laden until after it happened—a decision American officials explained by saying they were worried the information would be leaked. Relations between the two countries plummeted after the raid and have yet to recover.

Besides facing difficult questions about how bin Laden was able to hide in the country for so long, Pakistan's army faced unusual domestic criticism because it was unable to stop the American raid from taking place, or even detect it while it was under way.

Last November, U.S. airstrikes inadvertently killed 24 Pakistani soldiers on the Afghan border, dealing another blow to ties still strained from the bin Laden raid. Washington, which needs Pakistani cooperation against al-Qaida and in trying to end the Afghan war, is trying to rebuild the relationship.

AP

A minivan carries the family of Osama bin Laden, in Islamabad, Pakistan on Thursday, April 26, 2012.

AP

This July 20, 2011 file photo, captured through the window of a closed aircraft, shows an aerial view of Pag-asa Island, part of the disputed Spratly group of islands, in the South China Sea located off the coast of western Philippines.

China approves supply dock in disputed islands

BEIJING (AP)—China's government said Thursday that it has approved a provincial proposal to build a supply dock in the South China Sea, where Beijing is beefing up its claims of sovereignty amid territorial disputes with five other governments.

The State Oceanic Administration said in a statement that it had "in principle" agreed to a proposal by southernmost Hainan province to build the dock over more than 3.3 square kilometers (1.3 square miles) of sea space off Jinqing island to service Chinese tourism and fishing activities in the South China Sea. Jinqing is part of the disputed Paracel Islands, and the move could further raise tensions with rival claimant Vietnam.

A separate proposal to build another comprehensive supply dock in the South China Sea is under consideration, the administration's three-sentence statement said, without elaborating.

Hainan Vice Governor Tan Li said earlier this week that he is determined to start tourism development in the Paracel Islands this year.

China ejected forces of the former South Vietnam from the Paracels in 1974, but Vietnam claims the islands as part of its territory and protested China's plans to develop tourism there in 2009.

The Paracels are among 200 islands, reefs and coral outcrops in the South China Sea that have been claimed in all or in part by China, Vietnam and four other governments for their potential oil and gas deposits, rich fishing grounds and proximity to busy commercial sea lanes. The other claimants are the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei.

Also on Thursday, the Philippines said China violated a 2002 nonaggression pact when Chinese government ships prevented Filipino authorities from arresting Chinese fishermen who allegedly intruded into a disputed shoal in the South China Sea this month.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said in Manila that China's aggressive actions at Scarborough Shoal, including an order by its ships for Filipino vessels to leave the area, violated the Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.

The accord, signed between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, discourages aggressive acts that might spark clashes in the disputed South China Sea.

Del Rosario said Manila would consider any ASEAN offer to intercede to end the shoal dispute, which began April 10.

Analysts say NKorea's new missiles are fakes

TOKYO (AP)—Analysts who have studied photos of a half-dozen ominous new North Korean missiles showcased recently at a lavish military parade say they were fakes, and not very convincing ones, casting further doubt on the country's claims of military prowess.

Since its recent rocket launch failure, Pyongyang's top military leaders have made several boastful statements about its weapons capabilities. On Wednesday, Vice Marshal Ri Yong Ho claimed his country is capable of defeating the United States "at a single blow." And on Monday, North Korea promised "special actions" that would reduce Seoul's government to ashes within minutes.

But the weapons displayed April 15 appear to be a mishmash of liquid-fuel and solid-fuel components that could never fly together. Undulating casings on the missiles suggest the metal is too thin to withstand flight. Each missile was slightly different from the others, even though all were supposedly the same make. They don't even fit the launchers they were carried on.

"There is no doubt that these missiles were mock-ups," Markus Schiller and Robert Schmucker, of Germany's Schmucker Technologie, wrote in a paper posted recently on the website Armscontrolwonk.com that listed those discrepancies. "It remains unknown if they were designed this way to confuse foreign analysts, or if the designers simply did some sloppy work."

The missiles, called KN-08s, were loaded onto the largest mobile launch vehicles North Korea has ever unveiled. Pyongyang gave them special prominence by presenting them at the end of the parade, which capped weeks of celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of the country's founding father, Kim Il Sung.

The unveiling created an international stir. The missiles appeared to be new, and designed for long-range attacks.

ASIA BRIEFS

Official: Afghan soldier kills US service member

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan soldier fatally shot an American service member and a local interpreter in southern Afghanistan, officials said Thursday, the latest in a string of attacks against U.S. and other foreign forces by their Afghan partners. In the east, meanwhile, three U.S. service members were killed in a bomb attack, according to NATO and a U.S. official. The official confirmed the nationalities on condition of anonymity because the information had not yet been publicly released. Further details were not immediately available.

Cambodia environmentalist killed in police dispute

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—A prominent Cambodian environmental activist was fatally shot Thursday in a confrontation with military police near a forest area where illegal logging reportedly takes place, a human rights group and police said. Military police spokesman Kheng Tito said National Resources Protection Group director Chut Wutty was shot in a clash at a checkpoint in Koh Kong province during which the activist also fatally shot a military police officer. Kheng Tito said he did not know what caused the violence or who shot first. A member of a human rights group said Chut Wutty was shot when he refused demands to hand over digital photos taken in the forest.

US envoy in Pakistan to discuss supply routes

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A top U.S. envoy met Pakistani government and army officers Thursday in Islamabad in an effort to get the country to reopen American and NATO supply routes to Afghanistan. Pakistan shut the supply lines in November to protest U.S air raids that killed 24 Pakistani troops along the Afghan border. It has taken the government months to navigate the delicate path of resuscitating ties with the U.S., a difficult process in a country where anti-American sentiment is rampant. The army used the deaths to try to extract better terms from Washington, which sees Pakistan as an essential—if unreliable—ally against al-Qaida and vital to the sustainability of any peace deal with insurgents fighting in neighboring Afghanistan.

World

Syrian regime, rebels trade blame for deadly blast

BEIRUT (AP)—U.N. observers on Thursday inspected the site of an explosion that flattened a block of houses in the central Syrian city of Hama and killed at least 16 people, while the government and the opposition traded blame over the cause of the blast.

Syrian state-run media said rebel bomb-makers accidentally set off the explosives. Anti-regime activists said intense shelling by government forces caused the extensive damage. It was impossible to independently verify the conflicting accounts because President Bashar Assad's regime, facing a 13-month-old uprising, has restricted access for journalists and other outside witnesses.

The spokesman for U.N. special envoy Kofi Annan, Ahmad Fawzi, said observers visited the site but he had no immediate word on what they saw.

Two U.N. observers are stationed in Hama, part of an advance team of 15 monitors who are visiting hot spots to try to salvage a cease-fire that is part of a peace plan aimed at ending the violence and bringing the two sides to the negotiating table. The observer team is to be expanded in the coming weeks to up to 300.

Amateur videos said to be of Wednesday's blasts in Hama showed a large cloud of white and yellow smoke rising from a neighborhood surrounded by green fields. In a later video, dozens of people searched through the debris, including huge chunks of cement and broken cinderblocks. Another clip shows the bloodied body of a little girl being carried through a crowd of wailing men.

AP

In this image made from amateur video released by the Ugarit News and accessed Wednesday, April 25, 2012, purports to show Syrians standing in rubble of damaged buildings from Syrian forces shelling in Hama, Syria.

The state-run Syrian news agency SANA said rebels mishandling explosives triggered a blast that killed at least 16 people and severely damaged at least six houses.

The Local Coordination Committees, a network of activists, denied that and said it was intense shelling from government tanks that caused the damage. The group put the death toll as high as 70, but that estimate was not confirmed by others.

Another opposition group, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said the cause of the destruction was not immediately clear. The Observatory initially cited reports by local residents that they had come under attack from regime forces.

However, the head of the group, Rami Abdul-Rahman, said he could not confirm those reports and called for an investigation by U.N. observers. He said at least 16 people were killed.

With the violence in Syria continuing despite U.N.-led efforts to implement the truce, the international community has grown increasingly impatient with the Assad regime.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon demanded Thursday that the Syrian government immediately comply with its commitment to withdraw troops and heavy weapons from cities and towns, said U.N. deputy spokesman Eduardo del Buey.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, condemned the Syrian government's continuing intense use of heavy weapons in Hama and elsewhere.

Rice also said Wednesday's Hama explosion appeared to be "the result of intense shelling" though she couldn't say this with certainty.

Russia, one of the regime's main allies, said violations of the cease-fire were still being committed by both sides, but blamed the opposition overall.

"Most often this occurs because of provocative actions from the armed opposition, which often force the Syrian security forces to open fire in response," Russia's Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich said. Still, he added, the level of violence in the country has declined considerably since the observers arrived.

"All of this allows us to claim that the situation in Syria is starting to improve slightly, although this is a very fragile trend," he added.

Thousands defy Norwegian mass killer with song

OSLO, Norway (AP)—They gathered by the tens of thousands in the drenching rain to face down terrorism with song.

Drawn by a Facebook-organized protest, Norwegians flocked to public squares across the country Thursday and rallied against far-right fanatic Anders Behring Breivik, now on trial for a bomb-and-shooting rampage that killed 77 people.

They sang a Norwegian version of a Pete Seeger tune that the confessed mass killer claims has been used to brainwash the country's youth into supporting immigration.

Defiant singalongs of "Children of the Rainbow" were staged in Oslo and other major Norwegian cities, even as the ninth day of the trial went on with survivors of Breivik's attacks giving tearful testimony.

In downtown Oslo alone, about 40,000 people raised their voices as Norwegian artist Lillebjoern Nilsen played the song, a Norwegian version of Seeger's "My Rainbow Race."

They sang the Norwegian lyrics:

"A sky full of stars, blue sea as far as you can see

"An earth where flowers grow, can you wish for more?

"Together shall we live, every sister, brother

"Young children of the rainbow, a fertile land."

Seeger's lyrics in the original version have a similar message of living together in harmony.

In testimony last week, Breivik mentioned the tune as an example of how he believes "cultural Marxists" have infiltrated Norwegian schools and weakened its society.

The crowd later marched to the Oslo courthouse, where they laid a carpet of red and white roses on the steps and the fence.

Reached at home in Beacon, N.Y., the 92-year-old Seeger told The Associated Press he had heard about the mass gathering in a phone call from Nilsen.

"I said, 'Oh that's wonderful,'" Seeger said. "It's a tremendous honor, really. One of the greatest honors a songwriter could have is to have a song of theirs sung in another country."

The folk singer and his music have been central in many social justice issues from civil rights to the environment. He sang out against the Vietnam War and more recently joined the Occupy Wall Street protest in Manhattan.

AP

People lays flowers near the entrance the courthouse in Oslo where Anders Behring Breivik is standing trial Thursday April 26, 2012.

US: Mexico seized 68,000 guns from US since 2006

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government said Thursday that 68,000 guns recovered by Mexican authorities in the past five years have been traced back to the United States.

The flood of tens of thousands of weapons underscores complaints from Mexico that the U.S. is responsible for arming the drug cartels plaguing its southern neighbor. Six years of violence between warring cartels have killed more than 47,000 people in Mexico.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives released its latest data covering 2007 through 2011. According to ATF, many of the guns seized in Mexico and submitted to ATF for tracing were recovered at the scenes of cartel shootings while others were seized in raids on illegal arms caches. All the recovered weapons were suspected of being used in crimes in Mexico.

At an April 2 North American summit in Washington, Mexican President Felipe Calderon said the U.S. government has not done enough to stop the flow of assault weapons and other guns from the U.S. to Mexico.

Calderon credited President Barack Obama with making an effort to reduce the gun traffic, but said Obama faces "internal problems ... from a political point of view."

There is Republican opposition in Congress and broad opposition from Republicans and gun-rights advocates elsewhere to a new assault weapons ban or other curbs on gun sales. The Obama administration says it is working to tighten inspections of border checkpoints in the absence of an assault rifle ban that expired before Obama took office.

For more than a year, ATF has been reeling from accusations that some of its agents in Arizona were ordered by superiors to step aside rather than intercept illicit loads of weapons headed for Mexico.

The Justice Department's inspector general and Congress have been looking into the Arizona gun probe, Operation Fast and Furious.

The issue of gun control legislation hasn't been part of the Republican-led probe of Fast and Furious by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

The number of all types of ATF-traced firearms manufactured in the U.S. or imported into the U.S. and later recovered in Mexico rose from 11,842 in 2007 to 14,504 in 2011, according to ATF. The figures for U.S.-sourced firearms were 21,035 in 2008; 14,376 for 2009; and 6,404 in 2010. Included in those totals, the number of rifles recovered in Mexico, submitted to ATF for tracing and found to have come from the U.S. rose from 4,885 in 2007 to 8,804 last year.

WORLD BRIEFS

Arab League condemns South Sudan 'aggression'

CAIRO (AP)—The Arab League on Thursday condemned South Sudan's "military aggression" against an oil-rich border region claimed by Sudan while also supporting Sudan's right to defend itself. The statement came as some fear growing disputes between the two countries may soon lead to an all-out war. South Sudan seceded from Sudan last year after a referendum held as part of a 2005 peace deal that ended more than 20 years of civil war, but unresolved issues such as the sharing of oil revenues and demarcation of the border have led to tensions and clashes. Earlier this month, South Sudanese troops attacked and captured the oil-rich Heglig area. Sudan says it has since recaptured it. Earlier this week, after South Sudan said it was withdrawing its troops from Heglig, Sudan dropped bombs on the South. The U.N. said the bombs killed 16 civilians.

Nigeria: 7 killed in newspaper office bombings

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—A suicide bomber and a man armed with explosives attacked two Nigerian newspaper offices on Thursday, killing seven people and wounding at least 26. The radical Islamic sect Boko Haram claimed responsibility. Boko Haram said it coordinated the attacks on Nigeria's major daily newspaper ThisDay in the capital, Abuja, and an office building it shares with two other newspapers in the city of Kaduna. It threatened to target other journalists in the future. In Abuja, the suicide bomber rammed his car through the gates of the ThisDay office and drove into the reception area before the explosion, said Nwakpa O. Nwakpa, a spokesman for the Nigerian Red Cross. The blast killed at least three people and wounded others, Nwakpa said.

Young Style

Teen hoops star in spotlight leans on family, God

By ANDREW SELIGMAN
AP SPORTS WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—This is what it's like to be Jabari Parker, the nation's top high school basketball player.

One day he's presenting a project in his Spanish class, turns around and sees Alonzo Mourning. Parker takes a seat and grins. The former Miami Heat star is making a surprise visit to give him the Gatorade Basketball Player of the Year award.

And there are nights like this.

Parker and his teammates from Simeon Career Academy are holed up in a classroom after beating Whitney Young in the Illinois state playoffs.

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski and Michigan State's Tom Izzo were in the stands. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and his wife were there, too, sitting next to Parker's mom, Lola.

As Simeon holds its postgame meeting, a crowd gathers in the hallway, waiting to get a glimpse of the team and its 17-year-old star. Parker slips out a back entrance, trying to make a quiet exit.

Nice try, but no luck. It's hard to hide when you're 6-foot-8 and 220 pounds.

The young fans see him and run down the street, with one screaming "Jabari!" and begging for an autograph. The thing is, they're not even from Simeon. They're from other schools, but they've seen Parker on YouTube or TV and want a brush with fame, with the latest phenom from the South Side school that produced Derrick Rose.

Parker slumps down in a car as it pulls away. This is one of those occasional nights when he's just not in the mood, when he's weary of the attention and can't make himself face it.

He is, after all, a teen in unusual circumstances. Parker is a prodigy, and that can be dicey in any era.

Before he was Kareem, Lew Alcindor led his Manhattan high school team on a 71-game winning streak and went on to become the leading NBA scorer of all time. LeBron James, Kobe Bryant and Kevin Garnett all made successful jumps from high school to the NBA when the league allowed it. But for every safe landing, there are plenty of players who never became one of the game's best—JaRon Rush and Sebastian Telfair, to name just two.

Parker is determined to follow his own path, keeping all the adulation in perspective. Most nights, he tries to accommodate his young fans. He poses for pictures and signs autographs to show his appreciation.

"I can see myself as a role model," Parker says.

Good thing, too. In a world fueled by social media, where every move is caught on camera or dissected in 140 characters, the lights are shining brighter than ever on sports' youngest stars.

"I used to hear all this stuff about Kareem, Lew Alcindor, all the players having hundreds of letters," says Jabari's father, Sonny Parker, who played six seasons with the Golden State Warriors in the NBA after starring at Chicago's Farragut Career Academy, where Garnett played as a senior. "Now, he can't go to the bathroom without it (being posted) on Twitter."

It wasn't like that during Sonny's NBA career, which ended in 1982. Or even when Rose was finishing high school, just five years ago.

"The media has definitely changed where it's even crazier," Rose says. "I can only imagine."

What it means is that Parker, a soft-spoken young man who likes old "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" reruns and NBA matchups on ESPN Classic, feels a lot of pressure to be perfect.

"You can't really mess up," he says. "There's always going to be a camera on you everywhere you go."

So how does he cope? Answer: faith and family.

A devout Mormon like his mother, Jabari worships at a church near the University of Chicago and the Parker home, a simple brick bungalow in a working-class section of the city's largely African-American South Shore neighborhood.

It is not a flashy place, but it is, like Parker and his family, solid.

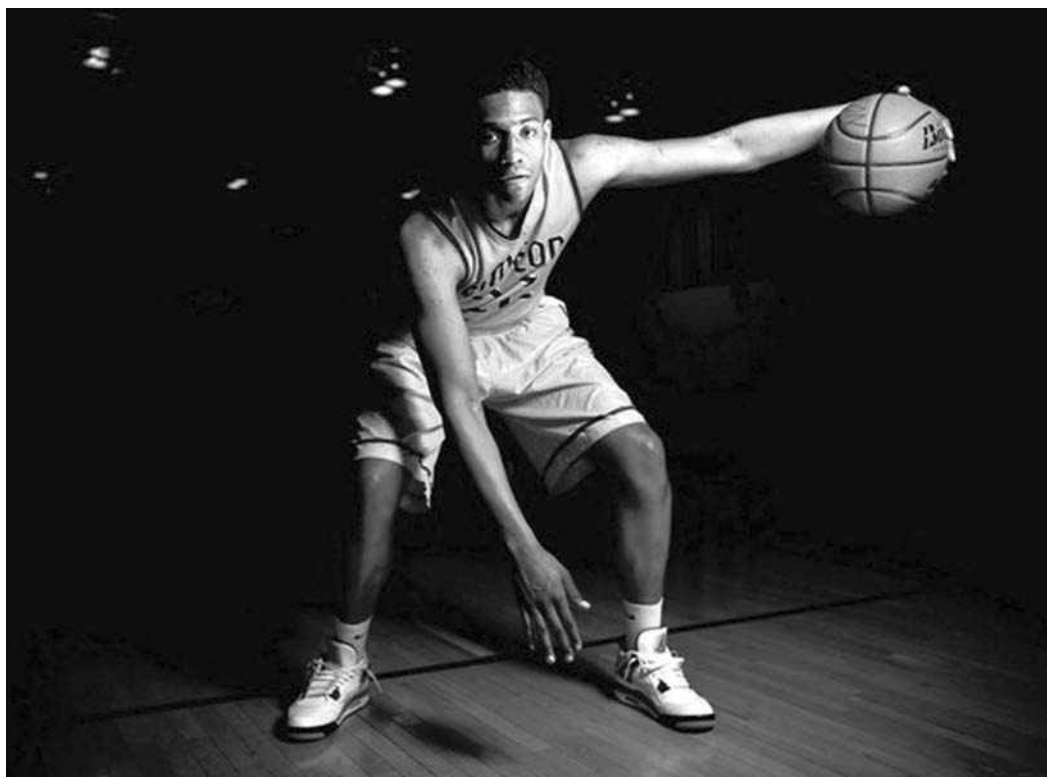
"I take for granted having two parents and a good inner circle," he says. "And I know that a lot of people that are superstars in the sports world right now didn't have a lot of the resources that I have."

Few have the talent he has.

Lola Parker could see it when Jabari, the youngest of seven children, was in the second grade and going against fourth and fifth-graders in a league set up by Sonny, who established a foundation to help inner city youth in Chicago after he retired.

Sonny, by the way, isn't the only professional athlete in the family. Lola has four relatives with pro football experience: Kansas City Chiefs tight end Tony Moeaki; Baltimore Ravens nose tackle Haloti Ngata; Philadelphia Eagles fullback Stanley Havili; and, running back Harvey Unga, a 2010 supplemental draft pick by the Chicago Bears.

Jabari might be the best of the bunch.



Simeon junior Jabari Parker is the 2012 Mr. Basketball of Illinois.

Scholarship offers started when he was in the sixth grade. Back then, they came from Illinois, Brigham Young, Washington, Purdue and Kansas, the Parkers say. UCLA started showing interest, too, and pretty much everyone was offering one by the time he hit high school.

To get an idea how big Parker is now, go back to an evening in September, when Simeon hosted an open gym. Not even a practice, mind you, but an open gym.

A who's who of coaches jammed the court from baseline to baseline.

Krzyzewski was there. So were Izzo and Roy Williams (North Carolina), Thad Matta (Ohio State) and Bill Self (Kansas). In all, some 40 coaches looked on, and as word spread that this was no ordinary session, that something special was happening, fans started packing the place, too.

"It was like the movie `Blue Chips'—and this was open gym," Sonny says. "The school had been in session a couple days. They closed down the barber shop, they came over to the school. It was packed in the gym. The coaches were coming in limos. It was unbelievable."

It's easier to understand why once you've seen Parker, who played varsity as a freshman—something not even Rose did.

Parker might grab a rebound, bring the ball up the court and try to set up his teammates as he runs the offense. The next possession, he might bury one from the outside. He averaged about 20 points last season and could probably score 35 a game, but he makes a concerted effort to play within his team's system and take over only when needed.

"He knows we have a good team, so he passes the ball," guard Reggie Norris says. "When it's time for him to step up, he scores."

Parker takes pride in getting his teammates chances to shine for college scouts. It's one reason why he's waited to narrow his own list of finalists. You see, he figures that'll keep the scouts coming and give his teammates exposure.

"He's good, a polished player to be so young," says Rose, who gets to keep an eye on Parker while he leads the hometown Chicago Bulls. "Has the will to win, and that's all you need."

Yet, it's about more than honors and accolades, fame and fortune, to the Parkers. It's about the impact, on and off the court.

Lola Parker mentions what happened at the De La Salle game in February, when Jabari led his Wolverines to an easy victory over a talented squad just one night after winning the city championship.

The crowd included Louisville coach Rick Pitino and then-Illinois coach Bruce Weber. Southern California's Kevin O'Neill was there, too, but it was a father sitting in front of Lola with his three young sons that stood out to her. They kept asking Parker for autographs and pictures as he was warming up. When Lola told the dad she was Jabari's mother, and would set up the boys after the game, the man was overcome with gratitude.

He said one of his boys was doing terrible in school. So he collected all the articles he could find on Jabari and made his sons read them, hoping they'd be an inspiration. The child with bad grades had turned things around, Lola recalls.

"He said, `You don't know what impact Jabari has done for my three boys, but it has changed their whole character, their grades, the way they're thinking and their attitudes,'" she recalls.

After last year's state championship win, Jabari gave his medal to the son of a former bishop from his church because the boy's family had traveled all the way from California to see him play.

"That little piece (of metal) doesn't really mean that much to me, but the memory means a lot," he says.

The family's faith is a respite for Jabari, who rises at 5 a.m. three days a week to attend a Bible study at his church before school. On one particular morning, he is the first to arrive, taking the rare moment of quiet to gather his thoughts and pray.

When the others join him, they sing a hymn and hear lessons based on the Old Testament, about avoiding the temptations teens face, valuing parents and giving back. Parker says he would come to this Bible study five days a week if he didn't have to trouble someone that early in the morning for a ride.

"It gives me a better view of life," he says.

On his bedroom door is a reminder to "put the Lord first" along with several sheets of 8-by-10 white paper. One lists the Ten Commandments. The other shows his "Always Remember" list, with his own personal rules: "Don't be quick to judge" and "Think positive things," among them.

Amid all the trophies is a Kobe Bryant Team USA jersey, hanging where Sonny had put Jabari's U.S. team jersey after he returned from the FIBA Americas U16 Championship last summer. Within about 10 minutes the teen had replaced it.

Why?

"I don't look up to myself," he told Lola.

He does look up to his older brother Christian, which explains why their old bunk bed—or the remaining bottom half—is still in the room. Jabari had the top part and, well, he grew out of it.

Yet for sentimental reasons, he won't get rid of the bed. He also keeps a drawing and poem Christian, who now lives in Seattle, gave him. In it, big brother praises Jabari's athletic —"heart, love for the game, commitment and a future to be the one."

"He's my biggest fan," Parker says.

His father is there, too, to offer sports advice. His mom, who works as a nanny, has found herself playing the role of agent, taking calls from media and helping her son set up visits to prospective schools.

At the start of each week, they sit down and go through their calendars and requests.

Often, it is Jabari who is asking for less—fewer interviews, fewer obligations, more time to rest and focus on his game. His ability to set limits has quickly become a survival skill.

"He tells us, `Mom and dad, don't you guys get caught up into this,'" his dad says. "He tries to keep US grounded from all this."

It's not easy when he's penciled in as an All-American and All-Star, and he wonders: "What if I don't make it one day? What am I going to do with my life?"

For now, he plans to narrow his list of colleges down to five later this spring. A Mormon mission is a possibility for him at some point, too.

Before he does that, he talks about needing to "polish up the little things before I step into the real world."

An ability to express himself more smoothly, even when he's tired, is among the items on his to-do list. Playing to his ability is another.

"I just want to prove to myself every time I'm on the court that I'm able to live up to those expectations," he says.

Whatever happens, though, he and his parents insist that being famous, and even making a lot of money, isn't the focus. They all vow that Jabari will earn a college degree, one way or another, in a world where the starting five for national champion Kentucky all left school just weeks after claiming the title.

It may seem old school. But that's just fine with the Parkers.

"The ultimate for us and our children is being a good example and being a good person, giving back," Lola says. "That's really very dear and precious to Jabari and also to us."

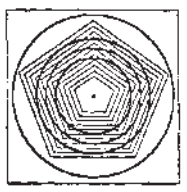
Junior Whirl®

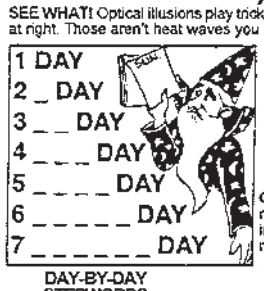
by Hal Kaufman

SEE WHAT! Optical illusions play tricks on your eyes, as in the example at right. Those aren't heat waves you see hovering over the pentagon. They are distortions of perfect circles superimposed upon the diagram's pentagonal lines.

If you entertain doubts, cut out the diagram, stick a pin through center, and give the figure a whirl.

Alakazam, what do you see? It's an amusing optical study.





OUCH POUCH! Question: "Why do mother kangaroos dread rainy days?" Answer: "The yju sth ata itw hen the chi ldr enp lay ins ide." Rearrange letter spacing for answer to make sense (or nonsense).

"They just hate it when the children play inside."

DAY-BY-DAY STEPWORDS

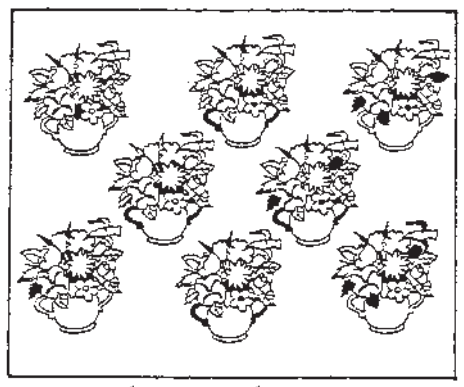
THERE'S a new DAY for each step of the way in this progressive word exercise, with each DAY word one letter longer than its predecessor.

Definitions:

1. Mother's —, a special one for Mom, of course (in place).
2. Crucial day in World War II.
3. Here-and-now day.
4. TGIF day.
5. Another name for a vacation day.
6. Annual cake, card and present day.
7. Gone but not forgotten past day.

How quickly can you fill in answers?

1. Day, 2. D-Day, 3. Today, 4. Friday, 5. Holiday, 6. Birthday, 7. Yesterday.



FIND TWINS! Two of the eight bouquets above look enough alike to be twins. Which two? Study them all carefully.

GREAT DAY! Give Mom a big hug on her special day. Add the following colors by number: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Dk. blue. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Green. 7—Dk. gray. 8—Black.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words:

DIAMETER

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible twosome: Ride, team.

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Is dog allergic to fleas?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My dog is possibly allergic to fleas. What herbal remedy is out there for me to use? My vet has tested her for food allergies, but I don't think that's the problem. She's 8 years old and has eaten the foods the tests say she is allergic to, but she has developed the itching only recently. I use flea drops, shampoos, even predisone. The predisone seems to help the most, although you cannot use it for prolonged times. Could it be stress-related?—Ora M., via email

DEAR ORA: Stress is one possibility in the puzzle that makes up pet allergies. But reducing your dog's stress might not be the only way to stop her itching and irritation.

You've worked with your vet to learn that her food is not likely the cause of her allergic reaction. That's a good start. And you're right: prednisone is not a long-term solution to the itching problem, although it does help alleviate symptoms.

Fleas are another possibility. Have you observed fleas on your dog's coat or skin, or found the tiny black or brown specks known as flea dust? Even if you don't see evidence of fleas, treat her to prevent the pests and reduce the likelihood of fleas around the house by vacuuming twice a week—carpet and furniture—and washing linens, pillows, curtains and other items that are tempting flea residences.

Stress could be a byproduct of the allergic itching. You can try a homeopathic treatment such as Rescue Remedy, usually adding five drops to her water dish once per day. But talk to her vet as well about other ways to reduce her stress levels to see if that helps clear the itchy irritation.

■ ■ ■

Send your questions or tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was Canadian author Saul Bellow who made the following sage observation: "You never have to change anything you got up in the middle of the night to write."

■ The U.S. military has created self-cleaning underwear. Yep. It seems they wanted skivvies that soldiers could wear for several weeks without changing. Nanoparticles and chemicals in the fabric repel liquids and bacteria.

■ More books have been written about Abraham Lincoln than about any other American president—more than 15,000 to date.

■ It is only to be assumed that Arabella Young, a Massachusetts woman who died in 1771, was considered to be a bit too talkative. Otherwise there would have been no need for the following epitaph: "Here lies as silent clay / Miss Arabella Young, / Who on the 21st of May / Began to hold her tongue."

■ Be glad that you did not have the misfortune to be in Bangladesh during record storms in 1985. You might have been brained by the record hailstones, some weighing more than 2 pounds each.

■ You might not be surprised to learn that among his Hollywood friends, screen legend and notorious drinker Humphrey Bogart was nicknamed Whiskey Straight.

■ The founders of the Arby's chain were a pair of brothers, Forest and Leroy Raffel. They wanted to name the original restaurant Big Tex, but found that the name was already owned by someone else. They settled on Arby's to represent the initials R.B.'s for Raffel Brothers.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "I never blame myself when I'm not hitting. I just blame the bat, and if it keeps up, I change bats. After all, if I know it isn't my fault that I'm not hitting, how can I get mad at myself?"—Yogi Berra

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MAGIC MAZE ● FAIR WORDS

B Q E O M J H F C A Y W S U R
P N L R J H F D B Z X K E V X
T R F A I R G R O U N D I Q A
O M K E N A L R I A F L R I F
H F D B Z Y F W B V T E I R R
Q O N L K N E R W Y R I A F I
I H F D G N I R I A F F F C A
Y A W R I A F T N O M R I A F
A Z X W F V U S R Q V I O N N
M K J F E L A T Y R I A F I U
H F A E S S E N R I A F S D F

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Affair, Fairbanks, Fairfax, Fairfield, Fairground, Fairies, Fairing, Fairlane, Fairmont, Fairness, Fairytale, Fairywren, Funfair, Savoir-faire, Unfair

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	−		×		25
÷		÷		×	
	+		×		30
+		+		−	
	×		+		29
11		5		29	

1 2 3 3 4 5 6 7 8

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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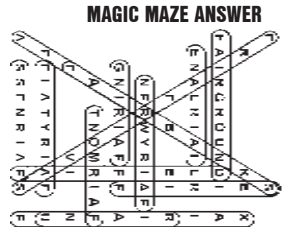
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

8	−	3	×	5	25
÷		÷		×	
2	+	3	×	6	30
+		+		−	
7	×	4	+	1	29
11		5		29	

Plan a family career day

Donna's Day
Creative family fun
by Donna Erickson

If you ask 4-year-old Axel Nelson, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" his first response might not be "a university librarian," but who knows where his career path will lead thanks to a few "going to work" outings with his grandpa Bryce, university librarian at Seattle Pacific University.

"When we walk through the main door hand in hand, my pint-size visitor is excited when he is greeted with smiles from staff and students," says Bryce. While the long rows and tall stacks are still a bit intimidating for him, he likes to head directly for my office, where we check out my baseball memorabilia and have a 'meeting' together over cups of tea. Now whenever we see each other, his first question for me is 'Grandpa, how were your meetings?'"

Do your kids really know what you do when you head off to work? To clear up the mystery, set a date and make plans to take them along. Introduce them to co-workers, show them around and have a snack or lunch together. They'll feel special and important wearing an ID or visitor's badge. And if you have an office or specific space, kids will be excited to see their photographs or their original paintings displayed on your desk or wall.

If children are not allowed in your workplace during regular business hours, make arrangements for an after-hours tour.

Here are more ways you can share the idea of work with your kids:

■ Familiarize your children with the work skills of your ancestors. Compile a list of relatives, and interview them or gather information from your family tree. Was great-grandfather a farmer? You may enjoy visiting a living-farm museum this summer to see what that job used to be like.

■ For preschoolers, make a simple booklet together filled with pictures and brochures illustrating what you do during your workday. If you're an at-home parent, the book will show that caring for home and family also is important work.

■ Talk with your school-age kids about their present interests and skills, and how they eventually might apply to a future vocation.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Good Housekeeping

Your Place: Window safety and dishwasher wisdom

BY ALAN HEAVENS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

If you open windows for ventilation, choose windows not easily reached by children. AP

I miss a lot of "special" weeks in this job, and the most recent victim was National Window Safety Week. While I doubt that the result was anything like the defenestration of Prague (the one in 1618, not 1419), I would be remiss if I did not mention at least a few safety tips provided to me by the folks at Marvin Windows:

Keep windows closed and locked when not in use.

If you open windows for ventilation, choose windows not easily reached by children.

Install a window-opening control device to limit the window opening.

Keep blinds, cords, and drapes secured and out of the reach of children.

Never paint, nail or weather strip windows shut.

Don't rely on insect screens to prevent falls.

■■■

More safety advice. If it's bad luck to open the Traveler's umbrella in the house, the insurer never mentioned anything when it offered me some of its own safety tips:

Air-conditioning drain lines should be checked yearly.

Washing machine, dishwasher, refrigerator ice-maker, and toilet supply hoses should be inspected annually and replaced every three to five years or immediately if there are any signs of cracking or bulging.

When possible, water heaters should be installed in an area with floor drains to minimize damage if leaks should occur. Where floor drains are not possible, containment pans should be used.

Inspect the fuse or circuit-breaker box for excessive wear, damage, or tripped breakers. Circuit breakers should be exercised periodically to ensure they have not become stuck and to keep them in good working order.

A fuse should never be rated higher than the circuit it protects. The wrong size fuse can allow too much current to flow, causing the wiring to overheat and possibly start a fire. Never use pennies or foil to fill the sockets.

Kitchen chemistry. Although sources close to the dishwasher—the "dunk it in vinegar" squad—have instructed us otherwise, Minnesota reader Jeannie Bendel maintains that the film on glassware is called "etching" and it is not reversible.

"Your glassware has been permanently damaged by some (what, I don't know) ingredient in your automatic dishwasher detergent," she said. "I use Diamond Brite by Melaleuca, only available by ordering online. It does not etch your glassware. It is completely safe and you use much less than other brands.

"This issue is very frustrating, and you don't know if this is going to happen to your glassware until it's too late."

Since the number of e-mails about cloudy glassware recently reached 220, this is what dishwasher maker Miele has to say:

Etching is the removal of metal ions from glass by alkaline wash solutions. Generally, everyday glasses and inexpensive crystal are made of ingredients that will show signs of some etching over time.

Etching is aided by prerinsing the dishes, insufficient water volume, too-soft water, too-hot water and not using rinse aid.

Once the etching process has begun, it cannot be reversed. Bendel is right … so, Miele's solution:

Use a minimum amount of dishwashing detergent. One teaspoon of detergent in the detergent cup is usually sufficient. If the dishes are exceptionally dirty, add extra detergent by the half teaspoon.

Use the maximum water level allowed by the dishwasher. More water allows for better rinsing and a higher dilution of the detergent.

Use lower temperature wash programs. Higher temperatures lower the resistance of a glass to etching.

Do not use over-soft water. Very soft water is extra reactive and will act to pull additional minerals from the glasses and dishware.

Load the dishwasher correctly. Correct loading ensures thorough rinsing of the glasses and dishes.

Use a rinse aid, which conditions the surface of the water so that it will sheet off the glass and thereby reduce the time available for chemical reactions with the glass.

Questions? E-mail Alan J. Heavens at aheavens@phillynews.com or write him at The Inquirer, Box 8263, Philadelphia PA 19101. Volume prohibits individual replies. He is the author of "Remodeling on the Money"—Kaplan Publishing.

Clearing Away Wasps

BY SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Checking out the eaves last week, I saw several small wasp nests tucked into the more sheltered corners. What's the best way to get rid of these nests? — Charlie L. in South Carolina

A: There are a few ways to remove those small wasp nests from the exterior of your house, and the quicker, the better. Wasps could possibly begin extending the nests inside the walls if they're not dealt with. In fact, you'll want to check the attic or storage space above the eaves, as well as crawlspaces under the house, for evidence of wasps before starting the removal.

To remove the wasp nest, make sure the kids and pets are inside to prevent possible stings from angry wasps. Wear long sleeves, pants, work gloves and sturdy shoes to protect yourself. And of course, if you have an allergy to bee stings, don't clear the nests yourself; call in a pest-control service.

The most effective way to get rid of the nests and reduce the chances of the wasps coming back is to use a chemical spray. Wait until dusk, when the wasps have returned to the nests, then spray according to the directions on the product. You may have to wait up to a week for all activity in the nests to subside; then you can climb up to the eaves and carefully pull off the nests.

An all-natural method for wasp removal is to gear up (cover all your skin, put protective netting over your face, and have an escape route) and spray each nest with a jet of water from your garden hose. This doesn't kill the wasps, and you'll probably see them building nests again in fall or spring.

What if you found that the wasps have gotten inside your home's siding during your initial survey? You'll probably want to stick with the chemical spray of the outside nests (not your interior walls) in order to kill them. One of my readers recommended using a wet/dry vacuum with a hose attachment to suck up as many wasps from their entry/exit point as possible. If neither of these methods eradicate the wasps, contact a pest-control service.

Found a wasp's nest in a tree at the far end of the yard? Consult a pest-control service before removing it, as the displaced wasps could simply move over to your house.

Send your questions or tips to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING TWO

HEARST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Ziti With Sausage and Zucchini

The whole family will love this new take on ziti.

- 1 package (16 ounces) ziti rigate or wagon-wheel pasta
- Salt, to taste
- 3/4 pound sweet Italian-sausage links, casings removed
- 3 medium (about 8 ounces each) zucchini, each cut lengthwise in half, then cut crosswise into 1/4-inch-thick slices
- 1/4 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper
- 1 can (28 ounces) whole plum tomatoes
- Grated Parmesan cheese, optional

1. In large saucepot, prepare pasta in boiling salted water as label directs.

2. Meanwhile, heat nonstick 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat until hot. Add sausage meat and cook until browned, about 5 minutes, stirring frequently to break up sausage. With slotted spoon, transfer sausage to bowl.

3. Discard all but 1 tablespoon sausage drippings from skillet. Add zucchini, pepper and 1/4 teaspoon salt, and cook until zucchini is golden, about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in tomatoes with their juice; heat to boiling, breaking up tomatoes with side of spoon. Return sausage to skillet. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer about 5 minutes longer.

4. Drain pasta; return to saucepot. Add sausage mixture; toss well. Serve with grated Parmesan cheese if you like. Serves 6.

Each serving: About 475 calories, 15g total fat (5g saturated), 35mg cholesterol, 785mg sodium, 66g carbohydrate, 21g protein.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/.

3RD YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

†MARIA HOCOG BORJA
Better known as
"Kitalang or Maria Dasu"

This is to inform all our friends and relatives that our Beloved †Maria Hocog Borja will be celebrating her 3rd Year Death Anniversary on Wednesday, April 25th thru Thursday, May 3rd, 2012.

Holy Mass will be offered daily at Santa Soledad Catholic Church in Kagman, Saipan every 6:00 a.m. except for Sunday April 29th mass will be offered at 7:30 a.m. & 9:00 a.m.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase genin I Familia

Life & Style

Joshua Ledet continues to impress on 'Idol'

In this April 11, 2012 file photo released by Fox, Hollie Cavanagh performs on the singing competition series "American Idol," in Los Angeles.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Joshua Ledet earned another pair of standing ovations on "American Idol."

The powerful 20-year-old gospel singer from Westlake, La., got the Fox talent contest's judges on their feet again Wednesday after his energetic take on Queen's "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" and restrained rendition of India.Arie's "Ready for Love." The finalists were tasked with tackling both a Queen classic and a song of their own choosing.

"Is it bad for me to say Joshua's part of the show is my favorite part of the show?" beamed Jennifer Lopez.

Skylar Laine, the 18-year-old country rocker from Brandon, Miss., who impressed the panel with "The Show Must Go On" and Jason Aldean's "Tattoos on This Town," joked that Ledet earned his 12th standing ovation of the season. Laine herself wasn't lacking for fans. Steven Tyler called her country interpretation of the Queen ballad "over the top."

"I am a ginormous fan," said Randy Jackson.

But Jackson and Tyler didn't love Elise Testone's bold selection of Jimi Hendrix's "Bold as Love." Tyler warned the rockin' 28-year-old teacher from Charleston, S.C., that while it warmed his heart for her to do Hendrix, she's "gotta do songs that people know." Lopez issued a similar warning to 21-year-old pawn shop worker Phillip Phillips of Leesburg, Ga.

"I need you to do songs that are gonna get you on that last show so you can win," Lopez demanded after Phillips' tackled the Dave Matthews Band's frenetic track "The Stone."

Jackson disagreed though, telling the growly blues-inspired crooner, who earlier earned rave reviews for Queen's "Fat Bottomed Girls," that "you showed your true colors again."

After delivering a truncated "Bohemian Rhapsody," 16-year-old Jessica Sanchez of San Diego struck an emotional chord with Luther Vandross' "Dance With My Father," which she dedicated to her soldier father.

Hollie Cavanagh, the soaring 18-year-old singer from McKinney, Texas, also tugged at the judges' heartstrings with Queen's "Save Me" and Miley Cyrus' "The Climb."

"It doesn't matter what kind of accent you got, you sing a song like it's going out of style," Tyler told the English-born vocalist.

Before their individual performances, the top six finalists were medley accompanied by guitarist Brian May and drummer Roger Taylor for a Queen medley.

One of the singers will be dismissed Thursday.

Another finalist dismissed from 'American Idol'

AP

In this April 25, 2012 photo released by Fox, contestant Elise Testone performs on the singing competition series "American Idol," in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Elise Testone won't be winning it all on "American Idol."

The rockin' 28-year-old teacher from Charleston, S.C., was revealed to have received the fewest viewer votes Thursday on the Fox singing competition.

Testone delivered energetic renditions of Queen's "I Want It All" and Jimi Hendrix's "Bold as Love" Wednesday but wasn't able evade eviction after appearing at the bottom six times.

Testone was joined in the bottom three by 18-year-old singer Hollie Cavanagh from McKinney, Texas. She tugged at the judges' heartstrings with Queen's "Save Me" and Miley Cyrus' "The Climb."

Eighteen-year-old rocker Skylar Laine from Brandon, Miss., was the other contestant on the edge. She wowed with Queen's "The Show Must Go On" and Jason Aldean's "Tattoos on This Town."

The five remaining finalists return to the stage next week.

More US-born Latin artists win fans in Spanglish

AP

Miami rapper Pitbull smiles during an interview in Miami, Wednesday, April 25, 2012.

MIAMI (AP)—For years, Latin music acts typically had two routes to U.S. success—sing in English, or build a Latin fan base with Spanish-language tunes, then cross over to the English-language market.

Now a growing group of artists like Pitbull, Prince Royce and Romeo Santos are making it big by singing in Spanish and English—sometimes in the same song—and winning over both markets simultaneously. And unlike the majority of artists singing in Spanish in the past, these artists are homegrown; they were born in the continental United States and grew up speaking English.

Royce, born Geoffrey Royce Rojas, earned fame last year with a bilingual version of Ben E. King's classic "Stand by Me." The song has been covered by John Lennon, Otis Redding and even U2, but Royce set it to the beat of bachata, the native folk music of the Dominican Republic.

The 22-year-old son of Dominican parents grew up listening to Michael Jackson, Eminem, Shakira and bachata king Juan Luis Guerra, and his self-titled debut album, released in 2010, was a top seller in the United States, Puerto Rico and Chile. His latest album debuted at No. 1 on the Latin Billboard charts and debuted No. 16 overall.

"I don't sit around going `Whoa, I'm a bilingual artist,' but there is this new wave where Latinos are catching a lot of interest in mainstream," Royce said. "It's cool. It encourages kids that even though they're born in the U.S., they do have this Latin culture they can use."

In the past, even U.S.-born artists like Marc Anthony gained fame singing mostly in Spanish before recording in English—or, like his soon to be ex-wife Jennifer Lopez, mostly in English before switching to Spanish. Still, most of the biggest Spanish-language artists who made it in the U.S. market were either from Puerto Rico, like Ricky Martin and more recently Wisin y Yandel, or Latin America, like Shakira (Puerto Rico is commonwealth of the United States).

Royce said he started with poetry in English, but a Spanish teacher encouraged him to pen lyrics in his parents' native language. His mother became his toughest critic.

"That was a way for me and her to connect," Royce said.

Leila Cobo, executive director of Latin content and programming for Billboard, said the big labels tried to market these kinds of bilingual U.S. artists in the past but got little traction. Yet with nearly 50 million Latinos in the United States, demographics are changing the game.

"It's a thing that's been simmering under the surface for a long time, but I think it's finally reached its breaking point," she said.

Nearly a quarter of American youth are Latino, and many want artists they can relate to—not artists who speak Spanish, but musicians who grew up comfortably in a bilingual, bicultural world. At the same time, Cobo believes non-Latinos are more open to bilingual artists.

At the Billboard Latin Music Conference this week in Miami, which ends Thursday with the Billboard Latin Music Awards, several workshops were dedicated to this demographic.

Miami's Armando Christian Perez, better known as Pitbull, has helped pave the way for a whole crop of mostly urban acts, including Royce.

In "Rain Over Me," released last year, he raps: "Latin is the new majority, ya tú sabes (you already know)/Next step la casa blanca (White House).

The Cuban-American rapper has repeatedly topped the charts in Spanish and English, collaborated with Sean "Diddy" Combs and Lil Jon, and hosts his own Spanish-language show on NBC Universal's bilingual mun2 channel.

Pitbull said Wednesday during the conference that he carefully chooses his words to ensure they are played on both English and Spanish radio and that they can be easily translated.

The Bronx-based group Aventura helped propel a resurgence of bachata mixed with hip-hop and R&B. Now the group's lead singer Romeo Santos has become a solo star in his own right.

The networks have also created more spaces for these artists as they tap into this U.S. Latin market with their own bilingual, bicultural channels like mun2 and MTV's Tr3s.

Tr3s helped propel Royce's career through its digital platforms, and it is now promoting the career of up-and-coming Manhattan-born Eli Jas, whose family has roots in Chile, Panama and the Dominican Republic. Jas grew up listening to Mary J. Blige, Mexico's Mana and Lauryn Hill.

"These artists swim in both worlds—Romeo comfortably singing a duet with Usher, and Usher singing a duet with Romeo, and neither of the audiences is confused," said Marc Zimet, Tr3s vice president of music and talent.

Gregg Allman postponing book tour for heart tests

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Poor health hasn't robbed Gregg Allman of his sense of humor.

Just as it seemed the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member was finally over the effects of his liver transplant two years ago, he's been forced to delay his upcoming book tour to promote his new memoir, "My Cross to Bear," for heart tests.

But in a phone interview Thursday afternoon he seemed in good spirits as he described his latest health problem.

"It's just one of those make-sure tests, you know," Allman said. "My heart goes into A Fib (atrial fibrillation) and does those beats—you know, instead of going du-dun, du-dun, du-dun, it goes ta-da-dat-ta-da-doot-doot. There's a little reggae in there somewhere."

Allman is scheduled to undergo tests Friday at The Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla. He had a liver transplant due to Hepatitis C at the same clinic in 2010 and has been steadily recovering since, though he's been forced to cancel or postpone performances from time to time because of setbacks.

He recently had hernia surgery related to the transplant and says he feels as well as he has in some time. It's unclear if his heart problems are related to the transplant

The co-founder of The Allman Brothers Band and a key figure in rock `n' roll joined his band mates at last weekend's Wanee Festival in Florida.

"That's our festival down there," Allman said. "The Allman Brothers started it. I didn't play the whole set, but I played both nights. In all I might've done 10 songs maybe. It was a lot of fun."

Allman will begin his book tour May 8 if doctors turn up no significant problems. He also plans to hit the road this summer with the Allman Brothers, something he feels he owes his fans.

"I know there's been a lot of people that have had their hearts set—God bless `em—on seeing me and my boys perform and seeing me and the Brothers perform," Allman said. "And because of this virus and all these damned surgeries, I had to cancel. I've always really held that sacred and a no-show I am not. I'd like extend my apology to them. It's just kind of a bigger bump than I expected in the road, and as of this summer I'll be there with bells on in the future."

As Kate dotes, Prince William deflects baby jokes

LONDON (AP)—Prince William insists he and his wife Catherine aren't preparing for life as parents just yet, after she was caught doting on a newborn boy at a charity event.

The Duchess of Cambridge, previously known as Kate Middleton, met three-week-old Hugo Eric Scott Vicary on Thursday at an event to mark the achievement of a group of polar trekkers.

Vic Vicary, the boy's father and one of the trekkers, said Kate had "said the baby was very cute, and had doting eyes on him."

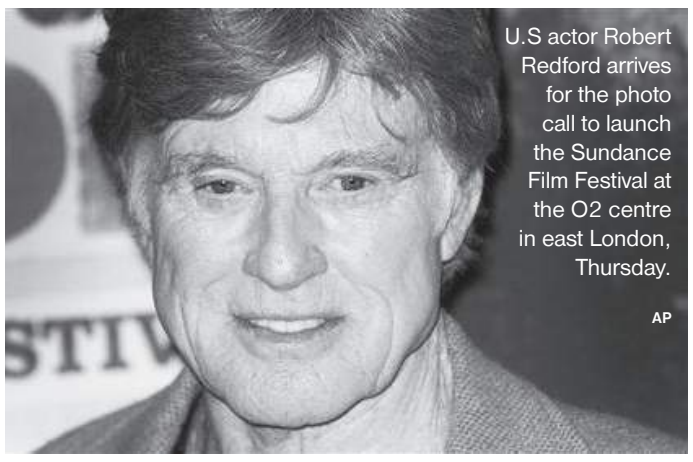
Though William later cradled the infant, he dismissed jokes from onlookers that he and his wife were in training for parenthood.

The couple, who celebrate their first wedding anniversary this weekend, earlier made a private visit to the London headquarters of Britain's overseas spy agency MI6.

AP

Britain's Kate Duchess of Cambridge, left, talks to Vic Vicary, who holds his three week old son Hugo Eric Scott Vicary during a reception to celebrate the Scott-Amundsen Centenary Race to the South Pole at Goldsmiths Hall in the City of London Thursday April 26, 2012.

Redford gushes over Prince Charles' green agenda



U.S actor Robert Redford arrives for the photo call to launch the Sundance Film Festival at the O2 centre in east London, Thursday.

AP

LONDON (AP)—American Hollywood royalty teamed up with British royalty as Robert Redford appeared in London to promote a documentary on Prince Charles' latest environmental projects.

Redford praised the heir to the British throne, speaking Thursday at the launch of the first-ever Sundance film and music festival.

He says Charles "has been committed for a long time, which I greatly admire, to sustainability and environmental conservation" and said working together "seemed like a natural fit."

Sundance London will host the royal premiere on Saturday of "Harmony: A New Way of Looking at Our World." The documentary by filmmakers Stuart Sender and Julie Bergman Sender maps out three decades of environmental work by the prince.

The Sundance London festival runs from April 26-29 at London's O2 Arena.

Brown Band's new album 'Uncaged' out July 10

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Describing the new Zac Brown Band album is anything but simple. "It's your basic country-Southern rock-bluegrass-reggae-jam record," Brown joked.

"Uncaged" is out July 10 and Brown says its 11 tracks further push the boundaries of what fans can expect from the Atlanta-based band.

Brown wanted to keep most of the surprises on the band's follow-up to 2010's "You Get What You Give" under wraps in a Tuesday afternoon phone interview.

He said the group has added Daniel de los Reyes, a percussionist who's worked with Earth, Wind & Fire, Sting and Jennifer Lopez among others. His addition to the already existing rhythm section of bassist John Driskell Hopkins and drummer Chris Fryar has allowed the band to expand its sound into new territory.

For instance, Trombone Shorty and the New Orleans star's horn section will make a guest appearance on "Overnight," ZBB's first shot at straight-up R&B.

Box Office Preview: Think 'Man' again for No. 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sony's "Think Like a Man" is expected to stand up like a man, too, this weekend, holding off a marquee full of newcomers with a second-weekend total of around $20 million to again top the domestic box office.

The screen adaptation of Steve Harvey's best-selling dating book, featuring an eclectic ensemble cast, will have amassed about $60 million by Sunday night—not bad for an April rom-com after just 10 days.

All four of the weekend's wide-release openers will tangle for second place in the low teens, including Universal's "The Five Year Engagement," starring Jason Segel; Lionsgate's "Safe," with Jason Statham; Relativity's "The Raven," starring John Cusack; and Sony's animated "The Pirates! Band of Misfits," the only family-friendly option among the newcomers.

AP

In this film image released by Sony Pictures - Screen Gems, Meagan Good is shown in a scene from "Think Like a Man."

Also fighting for a spot in the top five will be "The Lucky One," last week's No. 2 film, with an expected gross just below $10 million.

"The Hunger Games," the year's most successful film so far, will likely drop into single digits for the first time, but no matter since the film should have a total gross of around $370 million by Sunday night.

Yet its 2012 supremacy could be challenged as soon as next weekend, when Disney opens the superhero extravaganza "The Avengers" at more than 4,000 domestic theaters.

HBO producing documentary about George H.W. Bush

NEW YORK (AP)—HBO is producing a documentary on the first President George Bush to debut two days after his 88th birthday in June.

Titled "41," the film about the 41st president is being produced by Jerry Weintraub, a friend of the Bush family and himself the subject of "My Way," another HBO documentary. Jeffrey Roth, who made "The Wonder of It All" about Apollo moon walkers, is directing and writing the film.

It was made between September 2009 and February 2011.

HBO said Friday that Bush, father of the 43rd president, shares anecdotes about his youth, various jobs and term as president from 1989 to 1993. Its first airing is on June 14.

Irrational animosity drives a wedge between families

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My mother has never liked her sister-in-law. Mom thinks "Auntie Beth" is "completely out to get her," even though no one has seen any evidence to support my mother's claims.

For the past several months, Mom has been complaining nonstop about how "awful" Beth is. She says things at the most random times to people she barely knows. If we don't show sympathy toward Mom, she then becomes enraged. It has caused many problems between our family and Auntie Beth's. We can't have holidays together because my aunt is not allowed in our house. No one wants to be involved in the drama or to participate in the terrible gossip.

How can I help my mother understand the harm she is causing and get our family back together?

SICK OF THE DRAMA

DEAR SICK OF THE DRAMA: Your mother's behavior appears to have escalated from disliking Aunt Beth to obsessive and paranoid. If it is time for her annual physical, her doctor should be told about it because her behavior is not normal and she may need a neurological exam or counseling.

Unfortunately, there isn't much you can do about this, because if you try, she may think that you are "against" her, too. But the rest of the family can refuse to allow her to exclude Aunt Beth by not accepting invitations in which she is not included.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have started a relationship and am falling in love. I have known "Willa" for a few years, but we never really hung out before this. We see eye-to-eye on lots of things. However, the other night she told me she'd had a past relationship with her best guy friend, "Mike," whom she refers to as a "big brother." I have known him for a year.

Mike is someone I hang out with. Their fling was eight years ago. Willa also hinted there may be other mutual friends she has had relations with before me. I don't care who she's been with, but I feel I should know which ones we socialize with. And I'd rather hear it from her than find out from a friend. Willa says it isn't her place to spread other people's business. What do you think?

WANTS ANSWERS

DEAR WANTS ANSWERS: Unless Willa intended to make a full disclosure, she shouldn't have teased you by making you curious. Obviously, you do care about whom she has been with, so now you need to be honest with yourself about why. Would you prefer not to socialize with the men with whom she has had past relationships? Because she has clammed up, perhaps you should assume that she has been with all of the men she has introduced you to. The question you need to ask yourself is whether you can put her past aside and focus instead on building a future with her.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am curious to learn what your readers do when they receive a gift card for a place where they don't shop or eat. Some restaurants are located far from where I live, and some stores don't carry anything I need or want.

GRATEFUL, BUT ... IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

DEAR GRATEFUL, BUT: I'm printing your letter, but I am sure most of my readers would do what I would do and that is re-gift it to someone who would appreciate it and use it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "Mor e Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS ASTROLOGY STUFF.
EVERYONE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS. BUT YOU JUST HAVE TO WAIT 'TIL IT HAPPENS.
SO REALLY, THE BEST PREPARATION FOR THE FUTURE IS TO TAKE THE PRESENT AND
WHOOP! AAUGH!!
.. THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING?
NO, GET YOURSELF A GOOD LUCK CHARM. MAN, HERE COMES ANOTHER BATH!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I SOMETIMES REGRET DOING THIS
JIM DAVIS 4-28
SMACK!
IT'S NOT GOOD FOR THE MAGAZINE
MY SYMPATHIES!
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
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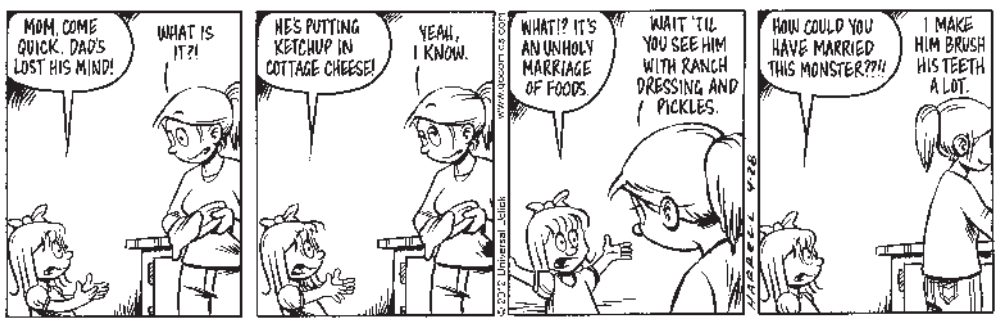
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MOM, COME QUICK. DAD'S LOST HIS MIND!
WHAT IS IT?!
HE'S PUTTING KETCHUP IN COTTAGE CHEESE!
YEAH, I KNOW.
WHAT!? IT'S AN UNHOLY MARRIAGE OF FOODS.
WAIT 'TIL YOU SEE HIM WITH RANCH DRESSING AND PICKLES.
HOW COULD YOU HAVE MARRIED THIS MONSTER??!!
I MAKE HIM BRUSH HIS TEETH A LOT.
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MARCEL 4-28

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M WRITING A FACEBOOK POST.
I'M VENTING ABOUT WHAT A BIG JERK MY BOSS IS.
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S WISE?
IT'S OKAY. SEE? I PUT A LITTLE SMILEY FACE AT THE END THERE.
4-28-12

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Stately dance
6 Spice blend in Indian cuisine
12 Nut in a toxic shell
13 "I, Robot" author
14 Acid neutralizer
15 Abrade
16 Disorder
17 Reverberate
19 In medias —
20 Early pulpit
22 Skater Babilonia
24 Carnival city
27 Exceptional
29 Make a splash
32 He sang "Alison" and "Veronica"
35 Took off
36 Recognize
37 Peculiar
38 Theater ticket datum
40 Teensy bit
42 Feedbag tidbit
44 Vaulted recess
46 Ellipse
50 Lowly worker
52 With optimism
54 More goose-bump-inducing
55 Dr. Scholl's product
56 Least bananas
57 As a coquette would

DOWN

1 Corduroy ridge
2 Requests
3 Tibet's capital
4 — Aviv
5 Dry, crisp bread
6 Pulverize
7 Foppish neckwear
8 Knightly address
9 Texas city
10 Easy bounding gait
11 Birds, to Brutus
12 Video maker, for short
18 Long, blunt cigars
21 "— Doubtfire"
23 Mimic
24 Gridiron arbiter
25 Under the weather
26 Flip
28 Not widely known
30 Antiquated
31 Spacecraft compartment
33 Altar affirmative
34 Seesaw quorum
39 Pay
41 Unlike rolling stones?
42 Poets' tributes
43 Neighborhood
45 Saucy
47 String instrument
48 Partner
49 Caustic solution
51 "Trivial Pursuit" need
53 John's Yoko

Solution time: 27 mins.

B	O	A		B	E	E	P		R	O	A	D
E	R	R		E	N	V	Y		E	R	G	O
R	E	G	I	S	T	E	R		E	B	O	N
G	O	O	D	E	R		A	W	L			
			S	T	Y		M	I	S	T	E	R
D	A	T	E	S		G	I	N		H	I	E
A	N	O	N		S	A	D		S	A	R	A
I	T	S		G	P	S		S	E	W	E	R
S	I	S	T	E	R		A	T	M			
			E	M	U		G	E	I	S	H	A
P	E	R	M		C	A	N	I	S	T	E	R
H	O	O	P		E	D	E	N		A	R	M
I	N	T	O		S	A	W	S		B	A	Y

Yesterday's answer 4-28

■	1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10	11
12						■	13					
14						■	15					
16				■	17	18			■	19		
■	■	■	20	21			■	22	23		■	■
24	25	26	■	27			28	■	29		30	31
32			33					34				
35				■	36				■	37		
■	■	38		39	■	40			41	■	■	■
42	43		■	44	45			■	46	47	48	49
50			51			■	52	53				
54						■	55					
56						■	57					

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Alba, 31; Penelope Cruz, 38; Jay Leno, 62; Ann-Margret, 71.

Happy Birthday: Share your feelings. It's up to you to let the people around you know how you feel and what you are and are not willing to do. Experience can help you now. Rely on those who have taught you the hard knocks of life first hand to help you avoid making similar mistakes all over again. Your numbers are 9, 14, 19, 25, 32, 36, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Do something that makes you feel good about your looks or talents. Questioning your current direction will help you fine-tune what you want to do in the future. Visiting someone special will bring about a life-altering change. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Think big when it comes to altering your surroundings. A change will inspire you to do more. Face responsibilities head-on and you will impress someone in a position to help you get ahead. Embrace whatever change comes your way. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): No excuse will be acceptable if you don't fulfill a promise you made. An argument over something that cannot be changed will be a waste of time. Focus on the present and what needs to be taken care of immediately. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Impulsive responses to comments made by others will come back to haunt you. Focus on old friends, reunions and reconnecting. Mixing past and present will bring back memories and inspire you to complete something you left unfinished. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Rethink an idea if it seems too costly. Share your plans with creative people and you'll find a solution. Love is in the stars, and taking part in events or activities that are conducive to romance will enrich your personal life. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get moving and take in as much information as possible. Participate in events and activities that will help you nurture an idea or goal you want to achieve. Refuse to let a personal relationship stand in the way of success. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You have the moves and you're in the groove. Chat someone up and you will make a friend for life. Your insight, knowledge and classy attitude will put you in the spotlight. New connections will lead to fabulous adventures. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Size up the people you are dealing with. An opportunity is better than you anticipate and must be allowed to develop. Offer your services and you will end up being the one in charge. A partnership will help promote what you do best. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Make changes at home that will add to your comfort and popularity. A discussion with someone you have a personal or family connection to will help you weed out a problem before it causes too much trouble. An investment will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Go over your personal papers. Knowing where you stand financially will help you make important decisions regarding the changes you want to make personally and to your home. Renovations or a residential move will be cost-effective. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You deserve to take a break. Get out with friends, or do something that makes you happy or will boost your ego. A pick-me-up offer will lead to unusual discussions with someone you want to get to know better. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Take better care of your health. Protect your reputation, and avoid getting involved with anyone who is withholding personal information. Let experience guide you in the right direction. It's better to be safe than sorry. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have stamina, drive and discipline. You are cautious and reserved.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4		5	1				7
2	9							
		8	9		4			
3		9				4		
4								1
		5				3		9
			3		2	8		
							7	4
1				7	6		3	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	8	6	2	1	7	9	4	3
2	7	9	3	5	4	6	8	1
3	1	4	8	9	6	2	5	7
9	3	5	4	7	1	8	2	6
7	6	1	5	8	2	3	9	4
4	2	8	9	6	3	1	7	5
1	4	2	7	3	9	5	6	8
6	5	7	1	2	8	4	3	9
8	9	3	6	4	5	7	1	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/28

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WINNING GRACIOUSLY Solution: 10 letters

E	E	P	V	H	S	M	I	L	E	C	X	E	R	I
Y	C	L	M	Y	O	J	N	E	C	R	G	T	E	T
T	O	I	Y	A	L	P	R	S	G	A	A	P	T	N
I	C	L	F	T	H	R	E	E	R	N	I	D	T	E
R	O	D	E	I	S	C	L	U	B	H	A	I	E	V
G	M	G	R	A	R	O	O	I	S	O	R	H	B	E
E	P	N	O	E	R	C	G	N	E	I	R	E	C	S
T	O	I	T	T	A	N	A	K	P	U	V	N	E	R
N	S	S	N	V	I	M	A	S	A	E	E	D	B	E
I	E	O	A	P	S	H	E	C	I	D	U	E	Ⓦ	T
D	C	L	P	T	S	F	T	H	I	T	G	Ⓘ	E	S
M	U	A	R	D	F	I	C	F	I	I	Ⓛ	A	S	A
E	L	O	N	O	O	A	N	T	N	Ⓛ	M	A	I	M
C	P	A	R	N	M	O	T	I	V	A	T	I	O	N
S	H	T	C	P	C	A	G	E	N	D	U	R	E	G

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Achieve, Action, Attitude, Begin, Better, Calm, Champ, Change, Clapping, Compose, Confidence, Control, Courage, Dare, Dream, Effort, Endure, Enjoy, Event, Excel, Gain, Goal, Good, Handshake, Hope, Integrity, Learn, Losing, Masters, Motivation, Play, Proud, Reborn, Sacrifice, Secret, Smile, Spirit, Sportsmanship, Style, Team, Value, Will

Yesterday's Answer: Booster

CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Differences: 1. Hair is different. 2. Cuff is missing. 3. Picture is moved. 4. Switch is missing. 5. Name is different. 6. Sign is missing.

Wishing Well®

2	3	6	7	4	8	5	3	6	2	5	8	7
C	I	L	N	R	L	W	M	O	H	I	O	E
6	2	4	6	4	8	6	3	4	6	2	6	4
V	E	I	E	F	V	D	P	T	O	E	M	R
7	8	6	2	5	7	3	5	2	8	6	2	4
W	E	I	R	S	G	O	D	U	I	N	P	E
5	6	3	8	5	6	3	8	3	4	8	6	2
O	A	R	S	M	T	T	F	A	P	O	E	Y
3	8	7	3	7	2	3	5	2	8	6	2	4
N	R	O	T	A	O	M	I	U	E	S	R	A
7	3	5	4	2	8	2	7	5	3	2	7	5
L	A	S	I	S	V	E	S	G	I	L	S	A
8	4	8	4	7	5	7	5	2	4	5	3	5
E	R	R	E	E	I	T	N	F	D	E	L	D

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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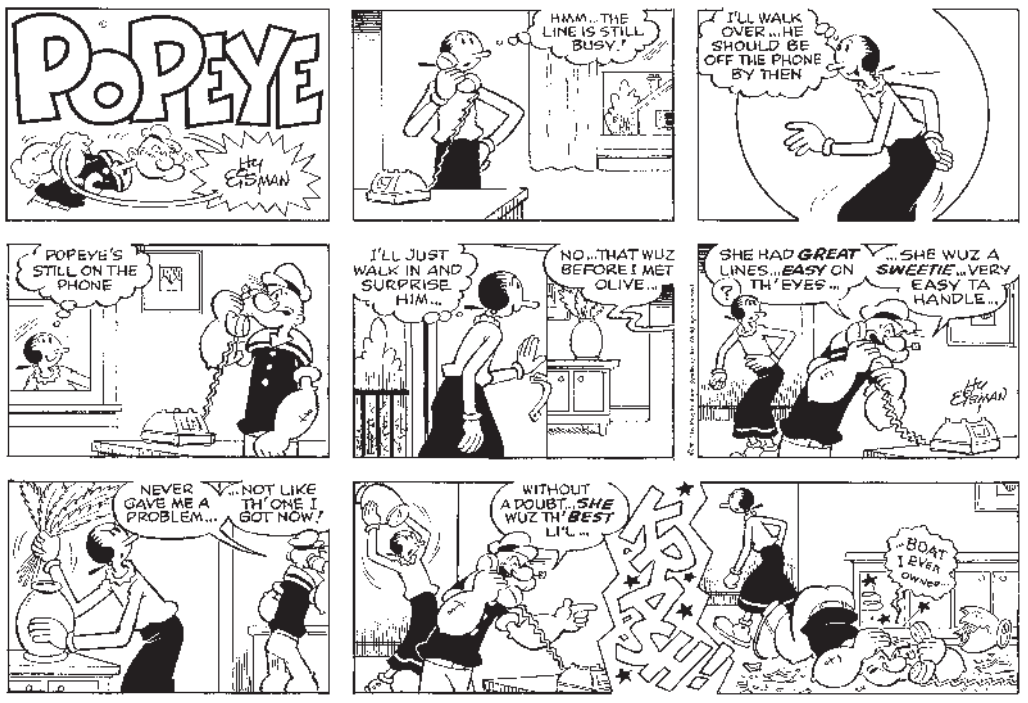
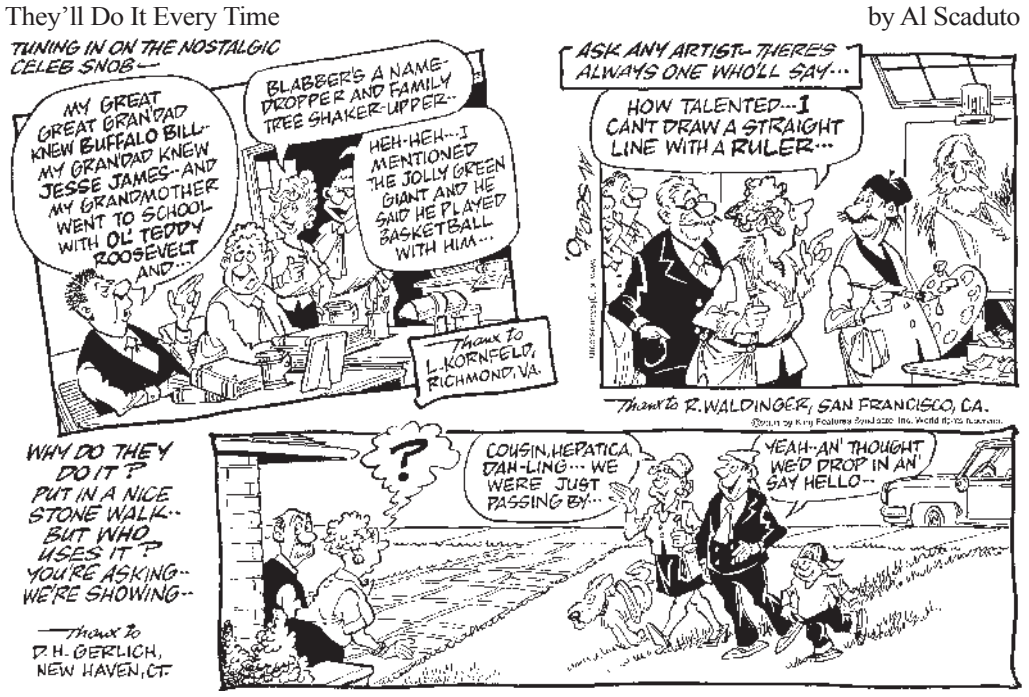
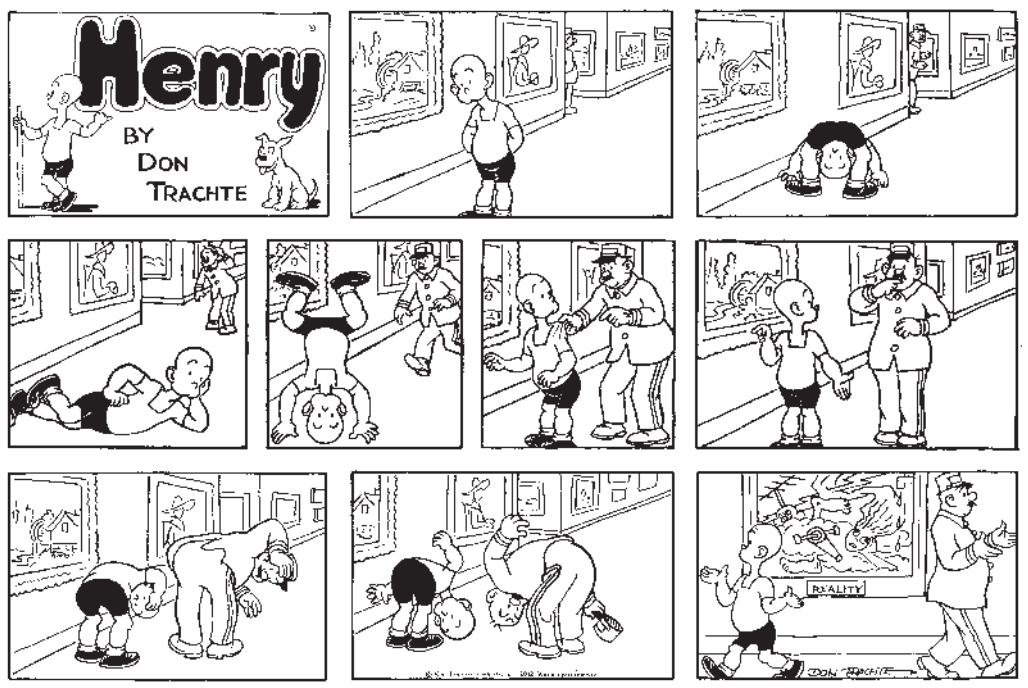

POPEYE
Hey EISMAN
HMM...THE LINE IS STILL BUSY.
I'LL WALK OVER...HE SHOULD BE OFF THE PHONE BY THEN
POPEYE'S STILL ON THE PHONE
I'LL JUST WALK IN AND SURPRISE HIM...
NO...THAT WUZ BEFORE I MET OLIVE...
SHE HAD GREAT LINES...EASY ON TH' EYES...
...SHE WUZ A SWEETIE...VERY EASY TA HANDLE...
NEVER GAVE ME A PROBLEM...
...NOT LIKE TH' ONE I GOT NOW!
WITHOUT A DOUBT...SHE WUZ TH' BEST LI'L...
...BOAT I EVER OWNED!

They'll Do It Every Time by Al Scaduto


TUNING IN ON THE NOSTALGIC CELEB SNOB—
MY GREAT GREAT GRAN'DAD KNEW BUFFALO BILL— MY GRANDAD KNEW JESSE JAMES--AND MY GRANDMOTHER WENT TO SCHOOL WITH OL' TEDDY ROOSEVELT AND...
BLABBER'S A NAME-DROPPER AND FAMILY TREE SHAKER-UPPER--
HEH-HEH--I MENTIONED THE JOLLY GREEN GIANT AND HE SAID HE PLAYED BASKETBALL WITH HIM...
Thanx to L. KORNFELD, RICHMOND, VA.
ASK ANY ARTIST-- THERE'S ALWAYS ONE WHO'LL SAY...
HOW TALENTED--I CAN'T DRAW A STRAIGHT LINE WITH A RULER...
Thanx to R. WALDINGER, SAN FRANCISCO, CA.
WHY DO THEY DO IT? PUT IN A NICE STONE WALK-- BUT WHO USES IT? YOU'RE ASKING-- WE'RE SHOWING--
Thanx to D. H. GERLICH, NEW HAVEN, CT.
COUSIN, HEPATICA DAH-LING--- WE WERE JUST PASSING BY--
YEAH--AN' THOUGHT WE'D DROP IN AN' SAY HELLO--

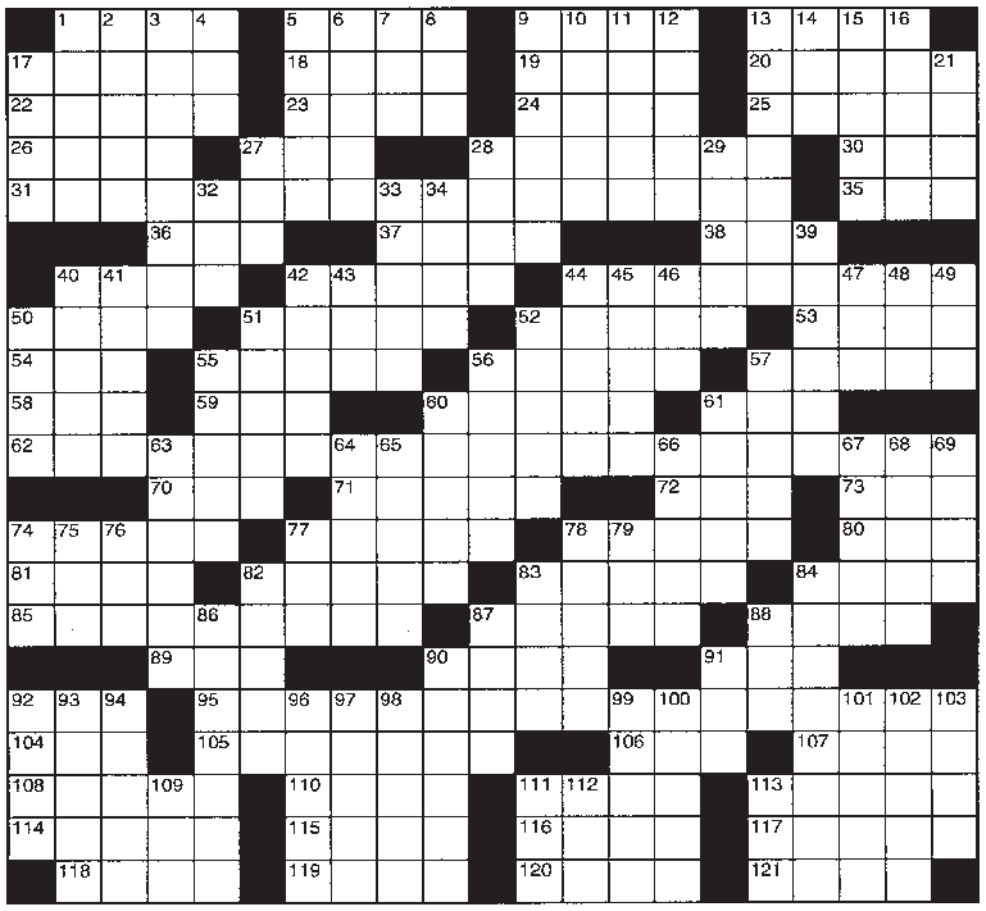


Super Crossword

NO WHEY!

ACROSS
1 TV host John
5 Full of oneself
9 Amontillado container
13 Beseeched
17 Nile feature
18 In good health
19 "— Without Love" ('68 hit)
20 Sanctuary
22 Hood's handle
23 Admiral Zumwalt
24 Tiny part of a second
25 Wagner work
26 Annealing oven
27 Flagon filler
28 Newspaper
30 Take-home
31 Start of a remark
35 Ring stat
36 Thwack
37 Compact cotton
38 "Great Expectations" character
40 Cad
42 Mythical being
44 Hateful
50 Give a little
51 Green
52 Yesterday's thresher
53 Lillian or Dorothy
54 Ivy Leaguer
55 Fancy dessert
56 First dog in space
57 Where cats congregate
58 Pie — mode
59 Lofty peak
60 Distribute the donuts
61 Keats composition
62 Middle of remark
70 Born
71 '87 Peace Prize winner
72 Solidify
73 "— Shook Up" ('57 smash)
74 Corny goddess?
77 Colossal commotion
78 Malicious to the max
80 Where rams romp
81 Bus starter?
82 Thirteen, to a baker
83 Soprano Fleming
84 — impasse
85 Dachshund or donkey
87 Pianist Jorge
88 "— Old Cow Hand" ('36 song)
89 Objective
90 Counter change
91 Botanist Gray
92 Age
95 End of remark
104 Road to enlightenment
105 Generally
106 — choy
107 Rocker Billy
108 Tracking tool
110 Manuscript enc.
111 "Surely you —"
113 Lowliest cadet
114 Caustic
115 Yemeni port
116 "New Jack City" actor
117 Beast of Borden
118 Long lunch?
119 For fear that
120 Non-stereo
121 Little ones

DOWN
1 Word form for "end"
2 Nobelist Root
3 Stiffened a shirt
4 Contains
5 Expand
6 Free-for-all
7 City on the Danube
8 Day- —
9 Finger food
10 Stun
11 Less loopy
12 TV's "— Landing"
13 Symbol of immortality
14 Drink like a Doberman
15 Happening
16 Writer Walcott
17 Tyne of "Cagney & Lacey"
21 West. alliance
27 Coldest cont.
28 Audacity
29 Tevye's portrayer
32 Sneeze and wheeze
33 Superior to
34 Chip's chum
39 Infant oinker
40 "Greetings!"
41 Early computer
42 Buccaneers' headquarters
43 Spare part?
44 With 47 Down, Italian export
45 Produces pies
46 Actress Long
47 See 44 Down
48 Manipulate
49 Diffident
50 Drum din
51 Nick of "Q&A"
52 Gets on
55 Perkins role
56 "Frederica" composer
57 Mature
60 Descendant
61 Ready to reduce
63 Silverware city
64 Infirmary item
65 Went wrong
66 Snowy bird
67 "Big Three" site
68 New York city
69 — Bator
74 — au vin
75 Aussie walker
76 Cell stuff
77 Dandy
78 Hailing from Aberystwyth
79 In accord
82 Swash-buckling novelist
83 '48 Hitchcock film
84 Texas town
86 "I Love Lucy" surname
87 Tour-de-France vehicle
88 Adjectival suffix
90 Aptitude
91 Say please
92 Pound of poetry
93 Extend
94 Wrestling giant
96 Twangy
97 Commerce
98 Classical nonet
99 "Hedda Gabler" playwright
100 Club creed
101 What i.e. stands for
102 "Ora pro —"
103 Painter Paul
109 Word on a pump
111 Bowie or Bakker
112 Author Umberto
113 Cosset a corgi



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: Where are the Faroe Islands located?
2. TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom's theme was the song "I'll Be There for You"?
3. ASTRONOMY: What planet is named for the Roman god of trade, thieves and travel?
4. HISTORY: When did the United States repeal Prohibition, which forebade sales of alcohol?
5. LEGAL: What is an affidavit?
6. RELIGION: Which book of the Bible describes the Israelites' deliverance from slavery in Egypt?
7. MONEY: What European country's basic monetary unit was the escudo – prior to the euro?
8. POLITICS: What was the nickname for Teddy Roosevelt's Progressive Party?
9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the purpose of gills in fish?
10. MUSIC: What kind of bird was featured in the Disney song "Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah"?

Answers
1. Between Scotland and Iceland
2. "Friends"
3. Mercury
4. 1933
5. A written statement made under oath
6. Exodus
7. Portugal
8. The Bull Moose Party
9. To take in oxygen and release carbon dioxide
10. A bluebird

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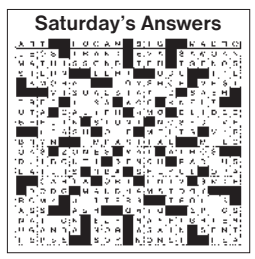
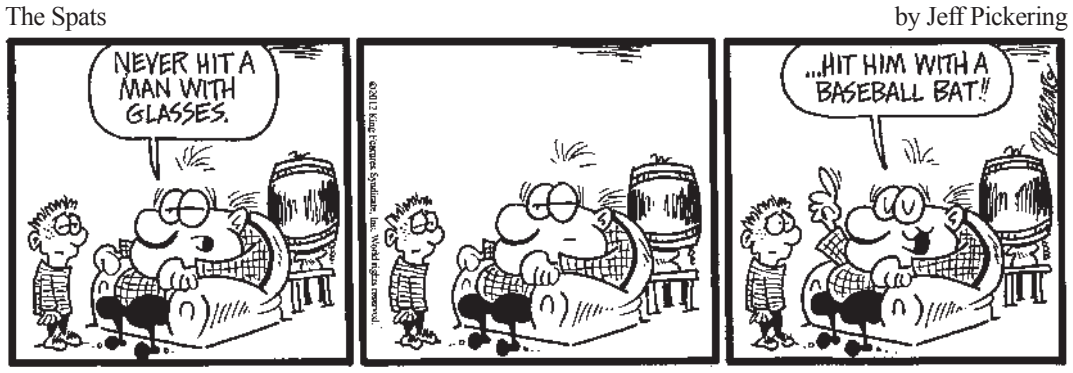
Saturday's Answers



The Spats by Jeff Pickering


NEVER HIT A MAN WITH GLASSES.
...HIT HIM WITH A BASEBALL BAT!
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Colts take Stanford QB Andrew Luck to open draft

NEW YORK (AP)—Andrew Luck knew exactly where he was heading and the daunting task he faces.

So did Robert Griffin III.

What the NFL draft lacked in surprise and suspense with its top two picks, it certainly delivered in challenges for the league's newest stars.

Luck, the Stanford quarterback and overall No. 1, heads for Indianapolis where he must replace Peyton Manning, who merely won four MVP awards and a Super Bowl. RGIII answers the call in Washington, where he will try to soothe a devout but highly critical fan base.

"You don't really replace a guy like that," Luck said. "You can't. You just try to do the best you can. Obviously, he was my hero growing up."

His selection as the top pick was hardly a stunner. The Colts informed Luck last week that Commissioner Roger Goodell would announce his name first. Right behind him was Griffin; no suspense attached to that pick, either.

After being loudly booed at the outset, Goodell told a raucous crowd at Radio City Music Hall that "the season begins tonight, so let's kick if off." Then he did, congratulating Luck while the crowd chanted "RG3, RG3."

Luck left the stage, slapped hands with some fans in Colts shirts and headed to the interview room.

"I realize you could go crazy trying to measure yourself to Peyton Manning every day. That would be an insane way to live," Luck said. "I know his legendary status, really. Huge shoes to try and fill if you're trying to do that. ... If one day I can be mentioned alongside Peyton as one of the football greats, that would be a football dream come true."

To get Griffin, Washington dealt a second-round pick this year and its first-rounders in 2013 and `14 to St. Louis to move up four spots. But they wound up with the Baylor QB who beat out Luck for the Heisman Trophy.

Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck, right, poses for photographs with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell after he was selected as the first pick overall by the Indianapolis Colts in the first round of the NFL football draft at Radio City Music Hall, Thursday, April 26, 2012, in New York.

Dressed in a light blue suit that didn't quite mesh with Redskins burgundy and gold - and wearing socks that fit the team's color scheme and proclaimed "GO CATCH YOUR DREAM" - Griffin had some trouble getting the Redskins hat over his braids. He ended up wearing it just a tad crooked while he flashed big smiles for photos.

"Go catch that dream - because a lot of times when you chase something you never get to it," he said. "So if you say, `Hey, I'm going to go catch my dream,' you're already telling yourself that you're going to get it."

RG3 also sang the team's fight song during a conference call:

"Hail to the Redskins! Hail vic-tor-y!" Griffin said. "That's how I felt. It felt that good."

Less than an hour before Goodell began the draft, Cleveland and Minnesota pulled off a trade in what would become a virtual swap shop, with eight deals on opening night. The Browns moved up just one spot, from fourth to third, to ensure getting running back Trent Richardson of national champion Alabama. Minnesota received picks in the fourth, fifth and seventh rounds and still was in position to get one of the elite prospects in this draft with the fourth spot overall, Southern California offensive tackle Matt Kalil.

Like Griffin, Richardson was treated to lusty cheers from the crowd. Unlike Griffin, he had less trouble placing the Cleveland hat over his impressive dreads.

"This team really wants me," Richardson said. "They ain't going to let me slip out of their hands at all."

Luck's good fortune put him in a similar position to Stanford predecessors Jim Plunkett, who won two Super Bowls for the Raiders, and John Elway, who led Denver to two NFL titles. He is the fourth consecutive quarterback chosen first and 12th in the last 15 years, dating back to Manning.

Elway now runs the Broncos and recently signed Manning as a free agent after Manning missed all of last season following neck surgery.

Indianapolis was the only team in the first seven picks to stay put.

After Minnesota took Kalil, Jacksonville jumped up two spots, trading with Florida neighbor Tampa Bay to get Oklahoma State's Justin Blackmon, the top receiver in this crop.

"It just goes to show you that anything can happen," Blackmon said, referring to the Jaguars going after him.

St. Louis must have liked dealing down because the Rams did it again, trading with Dallas, which was 14th overall. The Cowboys selected LSU's Morris Claiborne, the top cornerback, adding him to free agent signing Brandon Carr and shoring up what was a Swiss cheese secondary.

St. Louis got a second-rounder in the deal.

Tampa Bay finished off a wild 30 minutes of bartering by grabbing Alabama safety Mark Barron seventh overall.

A third quarterback went eighth where Miami - can you believe it? - stayed put. The Dolphins took Texas A&M's Ryan Tannehill, who played wide receiver for most of his time in college. His coach at A&M, Mike Sherman, is the Dolphins offensive coordinator.

Carolina selected Boston College linebacker Luke Kuechly, the nation's leading tackler. Buffalo chose cornerback Stephon Gilmore of South Carolina and Memphis defensive tackle Dontari Poe went to Kansas City before the next trade occurred.

Philadelphia moved up from 15 to 12, giving Seattle two later picks, then took Mississippi State defensive tackle Fletcher Cox.

Notre Dame receiver Michael Floyd went to Arizona, then the Rams finally got involved, taking LSU defensive tackle Michael Brockers.

Three more defensive players followed: West Virginia end Bruce Irvin to Seattle, North Carolina end Quinton Coples to the Jets, and Alabama cornerback Dre Kirkpatrick to Cincinnati.

New England made two deals later in the first round, with Cincinnati to get Syracuse DE Chandler Jones, and with Denver to draft Crimson Tide linebacker Dont'a Hightower. Minnesota also traded back into the round, getting Baltimore's No. 29 slot and selecting Notre Dame safety Harrison Smith.

Tampa Bay also got back into the first round at No. 31, dealing with Denver, then taking Boise State running back Doug Martin.

The Super Bowl champion Giants concluded a swift but hectic round by choosing Virginia Tech running back David Wilson.

Youkilis hits grand slam in Red Sox win

CHICAGO (AP)—Kevin Youkilis hit a grand slam, Jarrod Saltalamacchia homered twice and Boston roughed up Chicago starter Philip Humber.

Youkilis, mired in an early slump, hit his second career slam during a five-run third inning against Humber, who was making his first start since pitching a perfect game in a 4-0 victory at Seattle on Saturday.

There was no such suspense this time. Humber (1-1) walked leadoff batter Mike Aviles in the first, snapping his streak of 29 straight batters retired. One out later, the right-hander allowed an infield single to Dustin Pedroia.

Humber was tagged for a career-high nine runs and eight hits in five innings. The nine earned runs he allowed after his perfect game were a record, topping the eight given up by Jim ''Catfish'' Hunter after his perfecto for Oakland in 1968.

Rays 4, Angels 3

In St. Petersburg, Pinch-hitter Brandon Allen hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning to lift the Tampa Bay Rays over the Los Angeles Angels 4-3 on Thursday.

Albert Pujols went 1 for 4, ending his hitless streak at 21 at-bats when the Angels' slugger rolled a grounder up the middle to beat a three-man defensive shift. He was thrown out attempting to stretch the single into a double.

Pujols' hitless streak was the longest of his career, surpassing a 0-for-18 stretch from Aug. 29-Sept. 4, 2010.

Pujols, with 445 homers, has not gone deep in 19 games this season, a span of 76 at-bats. Dating to Sept. 22, Pujols has not hit a home run in 105 at-bats, tying his longest regular-season drought from April 23-May 23, 2011.

Mariners 5, Tigers 4

In Detroit, Chone Figgins hit a tiebreaking double in the seventh inning that was misjudged by right fielder Brennan Boesch, and Seattle completed a three-game sweep of Detroit.

Figgins' drive to right-center scored Brendan Ryan, who reached on a two-out walk from Pick Porcello (1-2). Former Tiger Charlie Furbush (1-1) got the win with a perfect inning of work.

Justin Smoak hit a three-run homer and Miguel Olivo also connected for the Mariners, who took a 4-0 lead in the fourth before the Tigers tied it. Figgins was 3 for 4 with a run.

Royals 4, Indians 2

In Cleveland, Luis Mendoza pitched into the sixth inning and Kansas City's bullpen made a lead stand up in the win over Cleveland.

Jeff Francoeur had a go-ahead single in a three-run fifth for the Royals, who won consecutive games for only the second time this season.

Mendoza (1-2) was pulled with the bases loaded and no outs in the sixth, but the Indians scored only one run on Travis Hafner's sacrifice fly. Relievers Tim Collins, Aaron Crow and Jonathan Broxton held Cleveland in check the last four innings. Broxton got his second save.

Orioles 5, Blue Jays 2

In Baltimore, Adam Jones led off the eighth inning with a tiebreaking homer and Baltimore beat Toronto to complete a three-game sweep with its fourth straight victory.

Jones ripped the first pitch from Casey Janssen (1-1) into the first row of the left-field stands, barely eluding the leap of Eric Thames. It was his sixth homer of the season.

Darren Oliver replaced Janssen after Jones' home run and allowed Matt Wieters' single before Chris Davis hit a two-run homer.

Mets 4, Marlins 2

In New York, Justin Turner drew a bases-loaded walk in a sensational 13-pitch at-bat and Kirk Nieuwenhuis hit an RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning as the New York Mets rallied past Heath Bell and Miami 3-2 Thursday, the Marlins' fifth straight loss.

Pitching for the first time in a week, and working in a steady drizzle, Bell (0-3) couldn't find the plate. The All-Star closer walked four and threw a whopping 46 pitches.

The Mets trailed 2-1 when David Wright drew a leadoff walk in the ninth. One-out passes to Ike Davis and Josh Thole loaded the bases for Turner, a pinch hitter.

Giants 6, Reds 5

In Cincinnati, Angel Pagan hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning, lifting San Francisco to the win over Cincinnati.

Joaquin Arias led off the ninth against Cincinnati closer Sean Marshall (0-2) with a walk, and Ryan Theriot followed with a single. After pinch-hitter Brett Pill struck out, Pagan lofted a 1-2 pitch into the left field seats to snap the Giants' losing streak in Cincinnati at seven.

Javier Lopez (2-0) allowed two hits but no runs in the eighth to earn the win. Santiago Casilla struck out the side in the ninth for his second save in two opportunities.

Padres 2, Nationals 1

In San Diego, pinch-hitter Mark Kotsay's two-run double off reliever Tyler Clippard in the eighth inning lifted the San Diego Padres to a 2-1 victory over the Washington Nationals on Thursday night.

With the Padres trailing 1-0, Orlando Hudson drew a one-out walk and Cameron Maybin dropped down a bunt single against Clippard (1-2). Kotsay followed with a double to right-center to put San Diego ahead.

Bulls rout Cavs, take No. 1 seeding overall

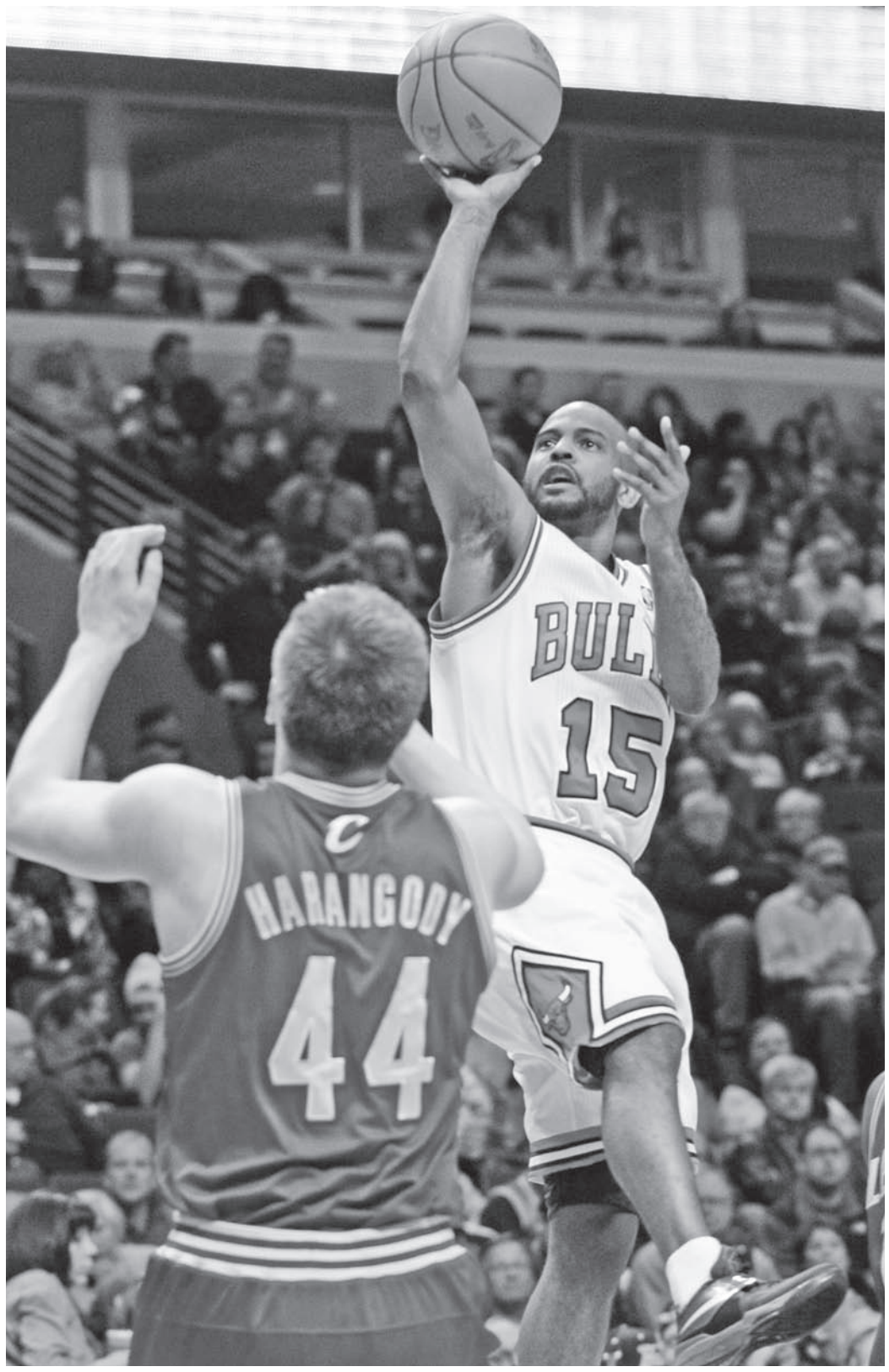
CHICAGO (AP)— John Lucas III scored a career-high 25 points, Joakim Noah had 13 points and 13 rebounds, and Chicago Bulls clinched the top overall seed in the NBA playoffs.

With the No. 1 seed in the East already in hand and the playoffs beginning on Saturday, Bulls coach Tom Thibodeau took no chances in the regular-season finale. He rested Derrick Rose, Luol Deng and Kyle Korver.

Chicago will host Philadelphia on Saturday.

Tristan Thompson scored 13 points for the Cavaliers, who lost four straight games to end the season, their second straight last-place finish in the Central Division.

Kyrie Irving, who had a late-season sprained right shoulder and is recovering from the flu, did not play.



AP

Chicago Bulls guard John Lucas III (15) shoots over Cleveland Cavaliers forward Luke Harangody (44) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Chicago, Thursday, April 26, 2012. The Bulls won, 107-75.

Knicks 104, Bobcats 84

In Charlotte, The Charlotte Bobcats couldn't even beat a New York Knicks team resting most of its starters, finishing with the worst winning percentage in NBA history after a 104-84 loss on Thursday night.

J.R. Smith scored 22 points for the Knicks, who pulled away in the second half to clinch the Eastern Conference's No. 7 seed and a first-round playoff matchup against No. 2 Miami beginning Saturday.

Gerald Henderson had 21 points for the Bobcats, whose 23rd consecutive loss left them with a winning percentage of .106 (7-59) in the lockout-shortened season. The record was set 39 years ago, when the 1972-73 Philadelphia 76ers finished 9-73 (.110) in a full regular season.

Hawks 106, Mavericks 89

In Atlanta, Josh Smith scored 23 points and Atlanta clinched home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs after racing to a 23-point lead in the opening quarter.

The Hawks wrapped up the fourth-best record in the East and host fourth-seeded Boston on Sunday. The defending NBA champion Mavericks open the playoffs Saturday at Oklahoma City.

Atlanta pounced on the Mavericks right from the tip, making 16 of 23 shots (69.6 percent) in the opening period. Smith scored 12 points, grabbed seven rebounds, dished out five assists and had a steal. A 28-7 run, capped by Willie Green's 3-pointer, pushed the lead to 36-13.

Nuggets 131, Timberwolves 102

In Minneapolis, JaVale McGee scored 19 points to help Denver lock down the sixth seed in the Western Conference.

Arron Afflalo scored 18 points and Danilo Gallinari had 17 points for the Nuggets, who won their fourth straight game and eighth in their last 10 as they surge into the postseason.

The Nuggets will face the third-seeded Los Angeles Lakers in the first round.

Celtics 87, Bucks 74

In Boston, Paul Pierce scored all 12 of his points in the first half despite missing most of it with a sprained toe and Rajon Rondo had 15 assists for Boston.

Avery Bradley added 14 points for the Celtics, who were nearly back at full strength in their final tuneup before the playoffs.

Tobias Harris led Milwaukee with 17 points. Jon Leuer added 15 points and Brandon Jennings scored 12 for the Bucks, who were 28-28 on April 7 but never could return to .500, finishing the season at 31-35 with two straight losses.

Wizards 104, Heat 70

In Washington, playing without its Big Three, Miami suffered their worst defeat of the season.

With their first playoff game just two days away, Miami coach Erik Spoelstra rested LeBron James, Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh for the second straight game. The Heat are locked into the Eastern Conference's second playoff spot and will open the postseason Saturday against the New York Knicks.

Mo Evans had a season-high 18 points, Nene and Kevin Seraphin each scored 15, and John Wall had seven points and 12 assists for the Wizards.

Grizzlies 88, Magic 76

In Memphis, Marc Gasol scored 22 points, Rudy Gay added 20 and Memphis claimed the No. 4 seed in the West.

O.J. Mayo had 15 points and Zach Randolph, returning to the starting lineup, finished with 13 points and 12 rebounds to help the Grizzlies win their sixth straight and 11th in 13 games.

Memphis won a franchise-best 11 straight home games and will open the playoffs at home Sunday against the Los Angeles Clippers, who dropped to the fifth seed.

Hedo Turkoglu, playing for the first time in 10 games because of a facial fracture, led the Magic with 18 points, hitting 7 of 13 shots from the field.

Raptors 98, Nets 67

In Toronto, Ben Uzoh had 12 points, a career-high 12 assists and 11 rebounds for his first career triple-double, and Toronto handed New Jersey a loss that slightly improves the Nets' chances in the NBA draft lottery.

Uzoh's triple-double was the first by a Toronto player since Alvin Williams did it against Atlanta on March 23, 2001.

Ed Davis had a career-best 24 points to go with 12 rebounds, Gary Forbes had 23 points and Alan Anderson scored 20 as Toronto snapped a four-game skid.

Pistons 108, Sixers 86

In Auburn Hills, Ben Gordon scored 26 points, including eight 3-pointers, to help Detroit rout short-handed Philadelphia.

The 76ers entered the game with a mathematical chance at the Eastern Conference's seventh seed, but didn't make much of an effort. Elton Brand, Andre Iguodala, Thaddeus Young and Lou Williams all sat out the game in order to rest for Saturday's postseason opener against top-seeded Chicago.

Spencer Hawes led Philadelphia with 16 points, while Jodie Meeks had 15.

Rockets 84, Hornets 77

In Houston, Chase Budinger scored a season-high 27 points and Marcus Morris hit the go-ahead 3-pointer to lift Houston.

The Hornets end the season in last place in the Southwest Division but finished strong, winning eight of their last 13 games.

Houston finished one spot above New Orleans in the standings with a 34-32 record after a late-season collapse that cost the team a playoff spot.

Jerome Dyson scored 15 points to lead the Hornets. Darryl Watkins added career highs of 13 points and three steals.

Jazz 96, Trail Blazers 94

In Salt Lake City, rookie Alec Burks scored 18 points and NBA Slam Dunk champ Jeremy Evans led a 10-0 fourth-quarter run as playoff-bound Utah beat Portland.

The Jazz finished the season on a five-game winning streak and will face top-seeded San Antonio in a first-round Western Conference matchup starting Sunday.

J.J. Hickson scored 20 points and Jonny Flynn added 18 to lead the injury-depleted Blazers, who didn't qualify for the postseason for the first time since the 2007-08 season.

Evans rarely plays but saw extensive action as Jazz coach Tyrone Corbin played his starters sparingly. Evans finished with 13 points, 10 rebounds and three blocks.

Kings 113, Lakers 96

In Sacramento, DeMarcus Cousins had 23 points and 19 rebounds, Tyreke Evans scored 17 points and the Sacramento Kings beat the Los Angeles Lakers' backups 113-96 Thursday night in the regular-season finale for both teams.

Kobe Bryant sat out along with four other Lakers' starters, conceding the NBA scoring title to Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant. He needed 38 points to boost his average above Durant's 28 points per game.

Instead, Bryant decided to rest up for another championship chase. Los Angeles opens its first-round playoff series Sunday at home against Denver.

Sacramento finished 22-44 in the lockout-shortened season.

Duke, Tringale share Zurich Classic lead

AVONDALE, La. (AP)— Ken Duke and Cameron Tringale topped the Zurich Classic leaderboard at 7-under 65 on Thursday, leaving defending champion Bubba Watson six strokes back at TPC Louisiana in his first tournament since winning the Masters.

Tringale birdied the final four holes and finished the round with eight birdies and a bogey. Duke had seven birdies in a bogey-free round. Both players are winless on the PGA Tour.

"My game felt really nice for quite some time and don't know how to explain it," Tringale said. "Just playing with a little confidence and it goes a long way in this game. ... When I had chances to make birdies I was making them and made a couple 20-footers as well. So, turned into a good day."

Steve Stricker, Ernie Els, Daniel Chopra and Chris Stroud were a stroke back at 66. Ben Curtis, the Texas Open winner Sunday in San Antonio, was another shot behind along with John Rollins and Jason Dufner.

Webb Simpson, a playoff loser last year in the event, had a 68.

Watson had four birdies and three bogeys in his 71.

Watson, playing the back nine first, was 2 over through the first seven holes. He birdied the par-5 18th and followed with three more birdies and a bogey on the front nine.

"I'm very exhausted, tough trying to play golf today," said Watson, who took a two-week break after the Masters. "I can't hit a full swing yet. I knew I needed to be here being the defending champ for the local fans. So I'm here, but mentally I'm not here."

Second-ranked Luke Donald opened with a 73.

Tringale, coming off eighth-place finishes in the Houston Open and Texas Open, made the turn at 2 under and had a 5-under 31 on the back nine, highlighted by a 25-foot birdie putt on the par-4 15th and a 20-footer on the difficult par-3 17th.

Duke, attempting to make the most of his opportunity after a two-year exile on the Nationwide Tour, made three consecutive birdies on the front nine to make the turn at 3 under and birdied the par-5 11th and par-4 12th to get it to 5 under. He added birdies on the par-4 16th and par-5 18th.

"The greens were good. Weren't too fast," Duke said. "You can't have them too fast here because of the wind and it will really will smack you. They're hole-able, receptive. The course is in good shape, great shape."

Ali'i Kamote holds lead in Masters league

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Es'y Kitchen's Ali'i Kamote, Jonny's Sparks, SOS Bar & Grill's DJ Fish, VFW Post 3457's Good Guys II and Jonny's AG Sakude emerged as the frontrunners in the Saipan Electronic Dart Association's 2012 Bud Light Summer/Winter League after last week's games.

Ali'i Kamote notched a solid 12-5 victory at home over fourth-ranked SOS's All Stars (78-75) last Wednesday to improve its record 98-55 for first place in the Masters division. Ali'i Kamote is enjoying an eight-game cushion atop the leaderboard against VFW's Maharot Crew (90-63), who endured an 8-9 road upset over the sixth placer SOS Destroyers (72-81).

In other Masters results, third-ranked Bammy's Aces (83-70) gained some ground with a 12-5 home win over sister-team Sabalu Boyz (57-96), while SOS's Mixblood Rookies (77-76) bested host team D'Companeros (57-96), 10-7, at VFW.

In the C division, the Sparks burned Naked Fish's Island-Apparel-OH MG!, 10-5, at home to improve to a 77-58 slate.

Bammy's DRP (72-63) sits five games back in second place after downing 19th Hole Bar's Hole In One (44-91), 11-4, on the road, while VFW's Party Rock (71-64) remains in third place after going into Naked Fish and knocking off Hafa Mas! (61-74), 9-6. In other results, Oceanside Bar & Grill's V1 (70-65) Shooters downed sister team V2 Shooters (66-69), 10-5, in a home draw.

In the B Fanihi division, DJ Fish remains at the helm of its group with its 82-38 record, but still needs to finish a make-up game against Naked Fish's IT&E Na'Gupu (54-66).

In other B Fanihi games, Bammy's DRP 2 (80-55) moved into second place after a 13-2 rout over bottom feeder host Oneshot (55-80) at Poseidon; SOS Lights Out (75-60) fell to the third spot after absorbing a 7-8 home upset to sixth placer Es'y Kitchen's Kitchen Shooters (60-75); and fourth placer VFW Dutty Gunz (61-74) survived Jonny's Adventurers (58-77), 8-7.

B-Flame Tree leader Good Guys II (76-59) cling to the top spot by a thread after being shocked at home by Joe's runner up Skoregazzzums (75-60, 8-9. The Skoregazzzums are just a game behind the Good Guys II.

In other results, Jonny's Rehab (72-63) defeated The Water Front (64-71),10-5, on the road to remain in third place, while Retsa Sakude II! (68-67) is tied with 19th Hole's Darts Freaks (68-67) for the fourth spot. Retsa Sakudi II! triumphed over Lilapuching (57-78), 10-5, at home and the Dart Freaks toppled SOS's What U Got? (60-75), 9-6, on the road.

In the inter-government division, AG Sakude overcame second-ranked CUC Power Plant (86-49), 9-6, on the road at Bammy's to improve to a 94-41 slate, while the DPS Bad Boyz (46-89) made it past Naked Fish's NMC PROA (44-91), 8-7, at home in Jonny's.

CNMI

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miss, Dakota Hall scored on a direct kick.

Macau also had opportunities to score after falling behind, but the CNMI's defense held strong on defense to complete its second win in the four-day tournament.

Besides taking a victory, the A team was also handed a green card for showing exceptional sportsmanship, according to Ramsey. Individual green cards given to Izuka, Fruit, Villanueva, and Pellegrino.

Before the match against Macau, the CNMI's A team faced the formidable Chinese crew in its first game in Day 2 and almost pulled off an upset over the hosts.

The game was a close one with neither team willing to give until China committed a defensive violation in the 25th minute with its player tripping Fruit. Dakota Hall took the penalty kick from the left corner with the ball rolling in, as China's goalkeeper went to the wrong direction to stop it.

Hall and company hung on to the lead for more than one hour and seemed headed for the win before China was given a chance to equalize on a direct kick with only a minute left in the 90-minute, three-period game. The host converted the direct kick for the tie.

The CNMI tried to make one final play with the time winding down and was gifted a direct kick, too in the closing seconds, but as Hall lined up for the kick, the clocked stopped and the Commonwealth had to settle for a draw.

"The whistle blew ending the game and our chance to win outright. But we astounded a Chinese team that is considered to be one of the top teams in the tournament," Ramsey said in an email forwarded to the NMIFA office here.

Next up for the CNMI after the game against China was Guam and this time, the Commonwealth fielded its B team against the latter. The CNMI bets played solid defense for the first 30 minutes before allowing Guam to score four goals. Despite the loss, the B team received green card from the referees.

After playing back-to-back days, the CNMI took a breather yesterday and will resume their campaign in Beijing today when it faces Japan at 8:30am (10:30am on Saipan). Then on Sunday, the Commonwealth strikers will collide with North Korea anew at 8:30am and meet Mongolia for the first time at 11:30am.

LADY

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was hung up in a triple play when none of its runners tagged up after Kagman centerfielder Janelle Brel snagged a line drive. Brel's throw actually sailed over the head of her target, but her teammates picked her up with the Lady Mantas still in disarray.

Kagman piled on six more runs in the third inning to put the match out of reach; Brel, Dela Cruz, Lizama, and Castro provided the bulk of the damage again.

The Lady Rays were dismissed with the bases loaded for the third time in a row in the top of the fourth, while the Lady Ayuyus threw up another run in the bottom frame for good measure.

The Lady Mantas lone run came from Cathy Amandus in the fifth and final inning.

Winning pitcher Zerah Castro narrowly missed the shutout and allowed one run off three hits and nine walks with four strikeouts through five innings. She also batted 3-for-3. Brel and Lizama both scored three times.

In the Kagman-MCS tiff, the Lady Knights managed an early 4-3 lead after the opening frame although neither team was awarded a hit.

Mt. Carmel remained aggressive on the base path, as Kagman's Catalina Dela Cruz tried to find her zone from the mound and worked around five more runs in the top of the second inning.

The Lady Ayuyus snuck home two runs in the bottom frame to trim the deficit, 5-9, but the Lady Knights got them back as they essentially walked their line up again in the top of the third inning.

Then Kagman managed to escape the third with the bases loaded, but MCS obliged and stood them up with ducks on the pond in the bottom frame.

The Lady Ayuyus held MCS to just one run at the start of the fourth and ignited an eight-run rally in the bottom half to squeak ahead, 13-12, heading into the last inning. Brel, Mikayla Borja, and Pelep all bashed base hits that were spread among four walks in the uprise, while Dela Cruz scored twice and bagged the go-ahead run.

After scoring in the first four innings, the Lady Knights laid an egg with the bases juiced in the final stand.

The season continues at the "Tan Ge" field on Monday with the Lady Knights taking on the Lady Dolphins (0-2) at 4:30pm.

FIELDERS

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while he and the Fielders delivered a pair of insurance runs in the clutch. Kaipat scored Masaharu with a fielder's choice in the fifth, while Ada scored off a fielder's choice by Uchau in the sixth to help the cause.

Winning pitcher Lizama gave up four earned runs off eight hits, a walk, and a bean ball with five strikeouts through four and two-thirds innings. Masaharu batted 3-for-4 with a RBI and three runs

In other Senior League results, Marianas Cable Vision-Rep. Ramon Basa-Frederick P. DL Guerrero-Kagman Lions held on to overcome Saipan Shipping Company's Jets I, 15-12, last Tuesday

In the Big League, Paradise Island Animal Hospital-Hustlers laid the hammer down on the defending champion Docomo Pacific-Ol'Aces, 7- and the Ol'Aces earned a 14-8 victory over the Sen. Ralph Torres-Rep. Ramon S. Basa-Frederick P. DL Guerrero-Kagman Lions on April 19.

In the Junior League, DPS Dare Program-Leep-Enforcers rumbled past the IT&E Fielders last Sunday, 12-5.

SENIOR LEAGUE
Lions 15, Jets I 12

The Lions' Justin Santos, Cedric Ada and Dave Matagolai all made it on and around in the first inning for an early 3-0 lead.

Justin Reyes was next as he bashed a two-run in-the-park homer in the second inning, bringing Austin Agulto home.

The Fielders had a run to start the third off an error, and the Fielders roared back to within one in the bottom frame. Daniel Smith doubled home Peter Borja from first base before Mathew Maeda obliged with an RBI double. Allen Cabrera scored Maeda with a sacrifice fly and the last run came off an error.

The Lions did not back down, however and added two runs in the fourth inning from another in-the-park homer by Reyes and a stolen dish by Santos.

Bret Halstead stole home later in the fifth and the Lions still led, 9-7, despite allowing the Fielders three runs in the bottom frame off a Fiedler's choice and a two-RBI single by John Kileleman.

The Lions came away with another run in the top of the sixth from a base knock by Brel Yobech, but the Fielders threatened with a six-run up rise in the bottom frame to pull ahead, 12-10. Cabrera bagged an RBI single and Kileleman another two-RBI smash.

The Lions would simply not be denied, however, and rose to the occasion once again with five runs in the seventh inning off five hits. Reyes singled and stole home, Justin Santos bagged an RBI single, and Ada played the hero with a clutch three-run in-the-park home run.

Reyes swung 4-for-4 with three RBIs, one run and a stolen base, while Santos crossed home four times.

BIG LEAGUE
Hustlers 7, Ol'Aces 1

After two scoreless innings, the Hustlers mustered three runs in the top of the third inning off a wild pitch and a two-RBI double by MacGarette Duenas.

The Ol'Aces got a run back from Leonard Sablan in the bottom frame, but the Hustlers work horse pitcher Brian Camacho kept them at bay for the remainder of the contest.

Hustlers' Duenas reached on an error and was grounded home by Jeremy Lizama in the fifth and McJarrel Espina busted a two-RBI triple and scored off a wild pitch in the sixth to help secure the victory. The Ol Aces left runners on the corners in the final stand.

Camacho went the distance and gave up one run off four hits, five walks, and a bean ball with nine strikeouts.

Ol'Aces 14, Lions 8

The Ol'Aces' Rocco Reyes belted an RBI double and scored off an error in the first inning for an early 2-1 edge.

The Lions briefly tied it at 2-all in the top of the second, but the Ol'Aces answered with eight runs in the bottom frame off seven hits. Jake Santos and Diego Camacho bagged RBI doubles, Keoni Lizama had a two-RBI single, Jacob Flores hit an RBI single, and Felipe Litulumar finished off the run with a two-RBI triple.

The Ol'Aces padded their lead with two more runs in the third inning from a triple by Harry Nakamura and an RBI single by Keoni Lizama and never looked back. Lizama went 2-for-4 with three RBIs and two runs in the win.

JUNIOR LEAGUE
Enforcers 12, Fielders 5

The Enforcers leaped in front out of the gate, 5-0, off four hits. Caleb Takao cracked a two-RBI double, while Darrion Jones and Franklin Lizama each bagged RBI singles.

The Fielders responded with three runs in the bottom frame from some early errors, followed by a stolen dish by Kainoa Wanket and a sacrifice fly by Dane Salazar.

The count shifted to, 6-4, after both teams added a run in the third inning and the Enforcers nailed two more runs in the fourth off three hits. Jones delivered an RBI single and PJ Sablan nailed an RBI double.

The Fielders mustered a run later in the bottom of the fifth, but the Enforcers dealt the knockout blow in the top of the sixth with another four runs. Jones jacked a two-run in-the-park homer, while the other runs came off an error and a wild pitch. The Fielders went three up and three down in the last two frames.

Takao, who scored three times, gave up four earned runs off four hits, six walks, and a hit batsman with eight strikeouts through six and two thirds innings. Jones batted 2-for-4 with three RBIs, two runs, and a stolen base.

TAN

From Page 28

ened the former anew with Marc Mora making a goal in the 85th minute. However, Tan Holdings went on to preserve the lead and the win after playing good defense in the closing minutes.

With the win, Tan Holdings now has a 5-2-0 win-draw-loss record, while the first victory remains elusive for Shirley's (0-1-5).

After beating Shirley's, Tan Holdings played its second game in Week 7 last Sunday and forced a 1-1 draw against Korean Football Association on Saipan. Chung logged his third goal of the week, scoring in the 23rd minute for the equalizer. Chong Koo Gil drew first blood for KFAS, nailing a goal just six minutes into the game.

Wild Bill's 2, Paire 1

In other results last Sunday, Wild Bill's retained its perfect record in Division A after downing Paire.

Jack Thoensaket had one goal each in the first and second half for Wild Bill's, which got its sixth win in as many games. Don Cabrera drilled the lone goal for Paire, which dropped to third from second place in Division A with its 2-2-2 card.

Paire lit up the scoreboard first with Cabrera finding the back of the net in the 13th minute. Thoensaket answered in the 31st minute and the halftime ended in a tie. Then Thoensaket broke the deadlock with his second goal five minutes before the match wrapped up.

Inter Godfathers' 2, SKY 0

In another Division A match, Inter Godfather's shut out SKY.

The win gave Inter a 2-2-1 record and second place in the team standings.

Neither team scored in the first half of the opening game last Sunday and the drought continued early in the second half before Arkie Reusora broke the ice with his goal in the 55th minute. Then two minutes later, Matt Holley also scored, giving Inter a 2-0 cushion, which it preserved in the remainder of the match, as SKY was still off on offense.

Colts take Stanford QB Andrew Luck to open draft

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Sports

Bulls rout Cavs, take No. 1 seeding overall

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CNMI strikers shine anew

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U14 Team continued to make an impressive showing in the AFC U-14 Boys' Festival of Football for East Asia.

After nailing a win over Chinese-Taipei last Wednesday in the opening of the youth event being held at the China National Football Training Center, in Beijing, the Commonwealth strikers prevailed over Macau, 1-0, and led the favored host before settling for a draw, 1-1, last Thursday.

Against Macau, the CNMI played its A team composed of Ryu Tanzawa, Dakota Hall, Joel Fruit, Julian Pellegrino, William Hinson, Jordan Butcher, John Masga, Won Juong Kim, Moris Villanueva, Joshua Galarion, and captain Kennedy Izuka.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the CNMI U14 National Team pose for a photo before the opening of the AFC U-14 Boys' Festival of Football for East Asia in Beijing, China last Wednesday.

According to an email from Gary Ramsey, who is attending a physiotherapist seminar in the festival and is assisting the CNMI strikers in their day-to-day activities, Tanzawa attempted to put the Commonwealth in the scoreboard early against Macau. Tanzawa went for kick, but the ball hit the crossbar and was deflected out.

However, the CNMI kept on trying to find a hole on Macau's defense and its patience paid off, as 20 minutes after Tanzawa's

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Kagman High School's Janelle Brel throws the ball from centerfield during their game against Saipan Southern High School in the MISO girls fast-pitch softball league last Wednesday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Fielders fend off Hunters in Senior League, 8-4

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The IT&E Fielders outlasted the Rep. Antonio Sablan-Eliceo D. Cabrera-Hunters, 8-4, during their Senior League game in the Saipan Little League last Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Fielders' Poland Masaharu tripled home Gayvan Uchau and scored off an error to provide and early spark in the first inning and Joe Kilelеman worked his way around in the second inning for a 3-0 lead. The Fielders then added two more runs in the third off a wild pitch and an RBI triple by Khobby Kaipat.

The Hunters mustered their first run in the top of the fourth from an RBI base rip by Jesus Mafnas, but Fielders' Davin Ada got it back in the bottom frame when he doubled in Jared Lizama.

The Hunters managed three runs off five hits in the fifth, but Fielders' reliever Ada was eventually called in to stop the bleeding. Ada went on to contain the Hunters for the last two frames,

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IT&E Fielders' Poland Masaharu torques up for a swing against the Rep. Antonio Sablan-Eliceo D. Cabrera-Hunters during their Senior League game last Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Tan Holdings edges Shirley's in men's league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tan Holdings FC drew twin goals from Kin Hei Chung to eke out a 3-2 win over Shirley's FC in the Division B game in the 2012 NMIFA Men's Spring League last week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Chung notched all two goals for Tan Holdings in the second half, foiling Shirley's bid for a draw. Chung scored his first goal in the 53rd minute, giving Tan Holdings a 2-0 lead. Earlier in the first half, Panapa Peteru found the back of the net at the 37th-minute mark.

Shirley's then moved within one when Michael Moran broke his team's silence in the 72nd minute. However, Chung gave Tan Holdings's more breathing room with his second goal in the 70th minute.

The score remained at 3-1 for Tan Holdings for more than 10 minutes before Shirley's threat-

See TAN on Page 27

A Tan Holdings FC player, left, and KFAS striker kick the ball during their game in the NMIFA men's league last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Lady Ayuyus still undefeated in MISO softball

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Kagman High School's Lady Ayuyus notched a pair of wins and remain undefeated in five games as the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization girls fast-pitch softball season continued at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Kagman soundly beat Saipan Southern High School's Lady Manta Rays (1-2), 13-1, last Wednesday after narrowly escaping the Mount Carmel School's Lady Knights (0-2), 13-12, last Monday.

The Lady Ayuyus' Janica Lizama drew a leadoff walk and touched all four to break the ice in the first inning against the Lady Rays.

Then Kagman moved ahead, 6-0, in the second inning off a slew of hits by Catalina Dela Cruz, Tracy Pelep, Ignacia Sakisat, and Zerah Castro.

Southern loaded the bases in the top of the third, but

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